

Saipan Tribune

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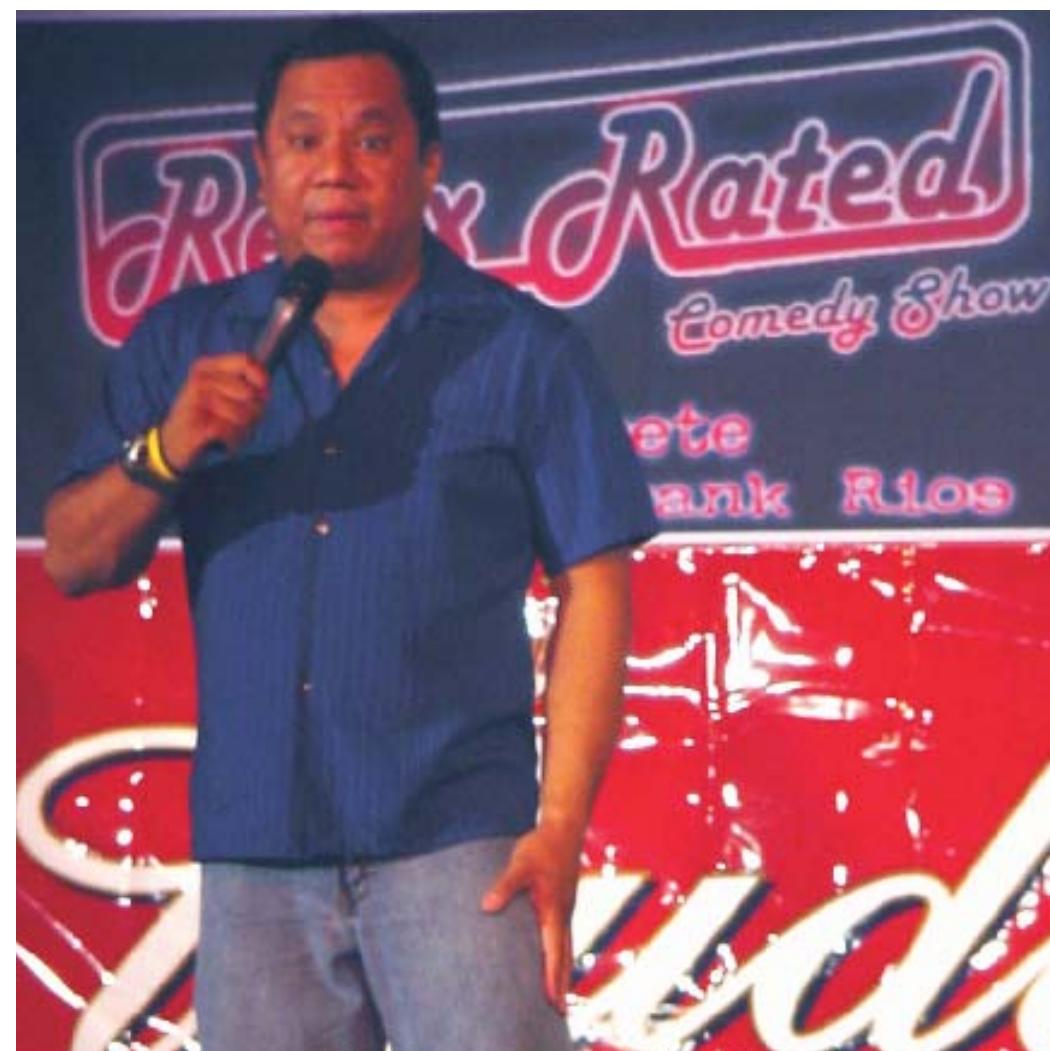
Comedian Navarette doubles-up Saipan

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Wild laughter and frequent applause filled the Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach's Hibiscus Hall on Saturday night as Filipino-American comedian Rex Navarette performed for some 500 people, joking about the Filipino mentality, immigrant experience, and his mother.

Following a short pre-show by Guam's amateur comedy series champion Frank Rios, Navarette took the stage with nothing but a bottle of water. For the next hour and a half, he brought to life his famous characters, from his ESL ["English as a Stupid Language"] teacher Mrs. Scott to his Irish high school friend Brian and to his Uncle [or "Tito"] Boy.

Navarette humored the crowd with his stories about his early years in the San Francisco Bay Area, knowing only one English sentence, and having his grandfather for a babysitter. He also told hilarious jokes about the Filipino accent and the many "similarities" between the Irish and the Filipino peoples. ["The Irish were butchered by the English; us



Filipinos butcher English."]

In fact, his mother and her own prejudice against Filipinos have provided Navarette with most of his material for his lampooning and often irreverent routines.

He made fun of his mother's strange pieces of advice whenever he went traveling to the Philippines: blink your eyes only twice a day so kidnappers won't think you're Chinese, and surround yourself with *chicharones* to keep the Muslim extremists away.

Navarette went on to comment on the practice of Filipinos, or Asians for that matter, of using their bare hands for eating. "Quoting" his mother, Navarette posed the question: "If I used my hand to eat rice at home, I'm Third World; but if I ate at McDonald's and used my hand to pick French Fries, I'm First World?"

In an interview after the show, Navarette said he had fun performing for the Saipan crowd, which has been receptive to his comedy.

"The audience was excellent. I don't know if you guys get stand up comedy here often, but it was really nice to perform for the first time here in front of a fresh audience. The people just let go of a lot of stuff," said Navarette, who has been in the entertainment busi-

ness for 15 years now.

He said he tries to make his routine universal to get more people to connect with his jokes. The immigrant experience, he said, is one good example of a universal theme.

"Everyone has immigrant experience, making some kind of transition to a new land. There's a lot of comedy you can find in adjusting and discrimination," he said.

While he normally has a working script for his acts, Navarette leaves room for spontaneity during his performances.

"I write down ideas, but I don't necessarily script them all out. I just kind of like use the stage as my work-in-progress board. If [a joke] is good, I keep it. I remember it for the next time and develop it some more. The routines sometimes come on stage, or when you're walking around, getting some groceries or just observing people," he said.

Navarette started doing stand up comedy at age 19. In his trade, he has found a venue to comment on things that otherwise would not be mentioned.

"I guess it is my mission to showcase Filipino life and the mind of the Filipino. We're beyond the United States now. We're everywhere; we're really part of the world," Navarette said.

Nevertheless, he said he does

not claim to be able to reach every Filipino through his comedy. He noted that there are some Filipinos who actually find offensive or insulting the things he talks about on stage.

"They'd say, 'You're on stage with an accent; we don't have an accent.' But yes, we do and it's okay. You're the one discriminating against yourself when you start teaching Filipinos to be ashamed," Navarette said. "That is the sound of my characters. I'm not going to fake it or make it cheap. I'm going to give you the real sound."

And what does his mother think? "At first, she found me very offensive. But now that I've become 'famous' in her eyes and her friends' eyes, she's accepting it," he replied. He added that the prejudice against Filipinos he portrays on stage signifies not so much his mother's own attitude on how Filipinos in general think of their fellowmen.

Organizer Nathan Sablan described Budweiser's Rexxx Rated Comedy Show as very successful. He said Marpac, which distributes the beer brand in the CNMI, plans to bring more comedy acts to the island.

Other sponsors were Continental Airlines, Dai-Ichi Hotel, Aquarius Beach Tower, Budget Rental Car, Coca Cola, Power 99, and The Rock.

Island Snapshots

The *Island Snapshots* accept contributed pictures of Melodies, events, happenings, and other community and family events for these publications. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. It must include a caption containing complete date, a brief description of the event, identities of the persons in the photo, the date, and the place, the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The *Island Snapshots* reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication, and the size of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to islandsnapshots@comcast.net. To check if contributions are received, call 223-6337, 223-2448, or 223-4740.

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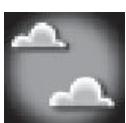
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COMMUNITY
Briefs

WEATHER FORECAST
PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., MARCH 9, 2004

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Fresh to strong trade winds across much of Micronesia converging into lighter winds near the Equator are producing scattered showers between the Equator and 8N from 130E to 153 and between the Equator and 6N from 160E to 180. A cold front stretches from 25N161E to 20N146E and continues as a shear line to 19N130E. Low- and mid-level clouds...light rain and showers associated with this feature extend up to 200 miles north of the boundary. Trade wind convergence south of the cold front/shear line is producing low clouds and showers between 12N and 18N from 132E to 150E. This area includes the Mariana Islands.


SAIPAN AND TINIAN

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.

GUAM AND ROTA

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.

PALAU

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.

POHNPEI

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.

YAP AND ULITHI

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.

KOSRAE

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

CHUUK

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.

MAJURO

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.

Winds: East at 15-20 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
Auckland	Sunny	71F (22C)	60F (16C)
Beijing	Sunny	65F (18C)	48F (9C)
Hong Kong	Sunny	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82F (28C)	68F (20C)
London, England	Sunny	45F (7C)	30F (-1C)
Los Angeles	Sunny	79F (26C)	59F (15C)
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88F (31C)	73F (23C)
Melbourne	Sunny	75F (24C)	59F (15C)
Miami	Partly Cloudy	72F (22C)	54F (12C)
New York City	Cloudy	40F (4C)	34F (1C)
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	37F (3C)	25F (-4C)
Paris	Partly Cloudy	38F (3C)	25F (-4C)
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	53F (12C)	39F (4C)
Rome	Cloudy	49F (9C)	30F (-1C)
Salem, Oregon	Partly Cloudy	60F (16C)	40F (4C)
San Francisco	Sunny	68F (20C)	52F (11C)
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	47F (8C)	35F (2C)
Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	42F (6C)	36F (2C)
Washington, DC	Cloudy	45F (7C)	34F (1C)

EPA lauds NMI for new UXO bunker, bomb squad

The CNMI now has a safe storage for unexploded vintage ordnance and its own bomb squad that could detonate the explosives.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers unexploded vintage ordnance as wastes that pose imminent threat and substantial danger to human health and the environment.

Occasionally, the EPA grants the CNMI emergency permit to detonate ordnance, which are commonly found on the islands, being battlegrounds during World War II.

EPA officials led by the agency's Pacific Islands Office manager, John McCarroll, lauded the CNMI Friday for the improvements in the campaign to get rid of vintage ordnance.

"Saipan has a safe storage finally for UXO [unexploded

ordnance]," McCarroll said.

The CNMI government reportedly developed the new bunker near Saipan's detonation site in Marpi, which is about one mile north of the Marpi landfill.

The government enhanced a cave to convert it into storage and installed a steel door in front of it by using prisoners' labor, McCarroll noted.

The previous bunker was located along the road connecting the Last Command Post and Banzai cliff, which are both popular tourist sites on Saipan.

McCarroll also credited the CNMI for having a new 15-man bomb squad, which reportedly completed training recently through a grant from the Department of Homeland Security. (*John Ravelo*)

Senate to decide on two appointees

The Senate is expected to decide tomorrow on the fate of two gubernatorial appointees: Santiago F. Tudela as commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and Martin T. Mendiola as Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Rota board member.

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations, chaired by Sen. Paterno S. Hocog, will be reporting on the two nominations in Tuesday's senate session which be held at Rota-NMC Conference Room.

Tudela is replacing former DPS commissioner Ed Camacho, who resigned from his post recently.

Tudela has been with the department for several years now.

Mendiola, meantime, will take the place vacated by long-serving CUC board member Laura Manglona, whose term

ended earlier this year.

Manglona served on the CUC board for 10 years.

The CUC board is currently composed of five members: chairman Francisco Q. Guerrero, vice chair Herman P. Sablan, secretary Rufina Miles, treasurer/Tinian representative Allen Perez, and board members Joe Torres and Velma Ann Palacios.

Mendiola is working as budget/federal program coordinator for the Rota Mayor's Office.

From August 2001 to February 2004, Mendiola served as a counselor and academic advisor for the Northern Marianas Col-

lege campus on Rota.

Before that, he served as the Rota mayor's special assistant for projects and administrative officer for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mendiola worked as special assistant for then congressman Alejo M. Mendiola Jr. from January 1997 to July 1998, and as researcher for the 6th Rota Municipal Council from December 1996 to January 1997.

He also spent over 15 years working in different schools on Guam, initially as teacher and later as principal.

Meantime, Gov. Juan N. Babauta informed the Senate that he is withdrawing the nomination for Herman Q. Deleon Guerrero as member of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission.

He said Deleon Guerrero "notified our office that he is unable to accept this position."

"Therefore, I have no choice but to withdraw his name as my nominee," said Babauta in a Nov. 3 letter to Senate president Joaquin G. Adriano.

There was no mention of Deleon Guerrero's reason for rejecting the offer. (*Liberty Dones*)

JOETEN MOTORS
+BLUE

FHB

Construction of solar-powered toilet underway

The Beach RAMP Environmental Quality Outdoor Education Center took a major step Wednesday evening, Nov. 17, when 30 people gathered to launch a much needed path-side public restroom facility, Saipan's newest Beach Pathway improvement is in the vicinity of the WWII Tank on Beach Road near Quartermaster Road.

Wielding the ceremonial shovels to launch the construction were Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente, Rep. Ray Tebuteb, Department of Land and Natural Resources secretary Richard Seman, Mayor of Saipan representative Tony Benavente, Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman, Division of Environmental Quality director John I. Castro, Energy Office director Thelma Inos, and Marianas Resources Conservation and Development Council vice president Ignacio V. Cabrera.

Also joining the groundbreaking was Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 Pacific Islands Office manager John McCarroll and CNMI program manager Pat Young.

MRCD, a non-profit corporation representing Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam, will develop the restroom. MRCD coordinator Jocelyn Bamba has been working with the Energy Office and DPW technical services to design the facility to demonstrate solar power for lighting, pumping, heating, and distilling water. Construction will be done by MARS Corporation.

Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy through the DPW Energy Office, the small project is a result of community meetings held last year as part of a design process that created the Beach Road Area Management Project. The effort is funded by the US EPA, through the DEQ.

During the event, Friends of Saipan Beach Pathway representative Judge Wiseman and president Thomas J. Camacho presented an \$8,000 worth donation of five picnic tables, five park benches, and a beach wheelchair. Two of the tables are wheelchair accessible. The bases for wheelchair accessible tables are made of concrete with crushed glass instead of sand and were donated by Manny A. Tenorio. The use of crushed glass demonstrates the construction value of this recycled material.

Ken Kramer, Team Responsible for the Environmental Enhancement of Saipan vice-president, planted vetiver grass, a unique grass known for its erosion control capabilities, in the adjoining drainage outlet. TREES and another community group, POWER, recently joined to help out with project landscaping.

Beach RAMP manager Ivan Groom provided an overview and tour of the several best management practices that have been developed in the vicinity of the WWII Tank on Beach Road near Quartermaster Road. Best management practices or BMPs are practical methods to reduce the impact of nonpoint source pollution on coastal and other waterbodies.

Patrick Calvo of Calvo's Development, Inc. hosted the event. He serves as the technical and construction manager for the Beach RAMP facilities. Innovative materials used at the demonstration site include grass pavers, permeable pavements, brick, geoblock and geoweb, geotextiles, bedding and bio-retention swales; recycled materials, including tires and two grades of crushed glass, concrete sand, and concrete plaster. There are a number of informa-



tive signs explaining how the particular BMPs function to reduce pollution.

The next step for Beach RAMP will be the construction of a small amphitheater and stage on the northside of the WWII Tank on Beach Road and Quartermaster Road.

Shoveling the shovel into the gravel for the occasion were local dignitaries, from left, MRCD vice president Ignacio V. Cabrera, DEQ director John I. Castro, judge David Wiseman, Mayor of Saipan representative Tony Benavente, DLNR secretary Richard Seman, Rep. Ray Tebuteb, Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente, EPA's John McCarroll, Energy Office Director Thelma Inos, and project contractor Greg Malet.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SHELL THANKSGIVING

HARDT EYE

Business

Nations looks to fill Asia demand for soy



SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Driven by voracious Asian demand, Brazilian and Argentine farmers are scrambling to plant as much soy as they can while Chilean mine workers rack up overtime burrowing into the earth for copper.

With China buying up all the raw material it can to fuel an un-

preceded economic expansion, Latin America is looking to Asia to build on a booming trade relationship that has no end in sight. And Asian countries—particularly China—are looking for political payback for being good customers.

Before he arrived at this week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit of 21 economies facing the Pacific, Chinese President Hu Jintao got the red carpet treatment in a weeklong trip to Brazil and Argentina.

Hu was quickly rewarded by Brazil, Chile and Argentina with a prize: Declarations by the countries that the Asian giant is now a market economy, a status China has been seeking worldwide to keep countries from imposing penalties on the dumping of Chinese exports.

In return, China pledged multibillion dollar investments in Argentine energy production, infrastructure and railways. Brazil got accords that will increase its imports of chicken and beef to China, and a US\$1 billion (euro770 million) agreement to build a natural gas pipeline.

Chile and China are negotiating a free trade agreement, but China didn't ask for the market economy declaration as a condition, said Hugo Lavados, who heads Chile's trade promotion office and announced the decision Friday.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun also spent three days

in Brazil ahead of the APEC summit, endorsing a free trade zone for his country with the Mercosur bloc—Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Brazil wants to export ethanol fuel and mid-sized airplanes to South Korea and hopes the Asian nation will invest in Brazil's crumbling infrastructure.

Although experts say Latin America still wants to maintain close relationships with the United States, Latin American countries clearly want to increase their trade flow to Asia and are willing to grant political concessions in return.

"I see this as a new initiative that has legs and is going to walk," said Riordan Roett, Western Hemisphere department chairman at Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. "Is there going to be a quid pro quo the Chinese ask of Latin America? Politics is always linked to trade, and there is no reason the Chinese should act any differently."

From 2001 to 2003 alone, exports from Latin America to Asia jumped from US\$22 billion to US\$29 billion (euro17 billion to euro22 billion)—an increase of 32 percent—due mainly to Chinese growth of more than 9 percent annually. Latin American exports of raw materials have also increased to countries like South Korea, Japan and Australia.

Experts fear price pressures could worsen

WASHINGTON (AP)—After years of relative calm on the inflation front, Americans are being battered by \$2-a-gallon gasoline, rising food prices and higher medical bills. And there are fears that price pressures could worsen in 2005.

The problem came into sharp focus last week when the government reported that wholesale prices increased in October by the largest amount in more than 14 years, and prices at the retail level recorded the biggest gain since May.

At the same time, energy prices experienced another jump, climbing at an annual rate of 22.5 percent through October. This has contributed to inflation's rising at a 3.9 percent annual rate this year, compared with 1.9 percent in 2003.

Inflationary pressures have led some economists to worry about a possible nightmare scenario: The dollar weakens dramatically, which drives up import prices; as terrorists attack overseas oil production facilities, which drives up energy prices; and like that, America's productivity miracle, a main reason for moderate inflation in recent years, disappears.

Economists acknowledge this is a worst-case scenario. Still, they say some shock is likely.

"If my inflation projection for next year goes haywire, it will most likely be because of external factors such as geopolitical tensions or terrorism that we have no control over," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis.

Some economists see inflationary pressures next year that will result directly from Bush administration policies on the dollar.

The administration insists it favors a strong dollar yet has done nothing to check the greenback's slide over the past three years. This decline could help combat the widening U.S. trade deficit by making American products cheaper abroad and imports pricier in this country.

Treasury Secretary John Snow and other U.S. officials have pressed China to sever its currency's direct link to the dollar. U.S. manufacturers contend that practice has undervalued the Chinese currency by as much as 40 percent and given China a substantial advantage against U.S. competitors.

SHELL DOUBLE STAMP
CMYK

Slumping dollar to dominate G-20 meeting

BERLIN (AP)—European officials are increasingly alarmed by the U.S. dollar's slump against the euro—but they aren't likely to get help from the United States or Asian countries at the G-20 meeting of industrial and developing countries that opened Saturday.

The annual meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors, which ends Sunday, followed a week in which worries over the U.S. trade and budget deficits pushed the euro to a new all-time high of US\$1.3074.

U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow has met increasingly sharp complaints from Europeans—worried that their export-led recovery will be hurt—with

a clear message that Washington won't act to prop up the dollar. Instead, Snow suggested, Europe should do more to boost its own economy.

Markets have pushed the euro up from about US\$1.20 over the past two months in a surge labeled "brutal" by European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet. Economists say President George W. Bush has little incentive to act because the lower dollar helps U.S. exporters.

German officials have played down hopes of action this weekend, insisting that exchange rates aren't formally on the agenda. Finance Minister Hans Eichel called this week for a "joint po-

sition" from the United States, Europe and Japan, but avoided the issue in an opening address on Saturday.

"Issues such as safeguarding long-term growth, dealing with demographic challenges and creating an institutional framework for domestic financial markets are at the center of our meeting," he said.

"It's pretty clear that the Americans have no major interest in a stronger dollar at the moment," said Stefan Schneider, an economist at Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt. "There is unlikely to be much more than some kind of remark that erratic and strongly fluctuating exchange rate developments are bad."

"The conflicts of interest are just too

great," he said. "I cannot imagine (Bush) effectively weakening the economy because the rest of the world has a problem with the American current account deficit or the dollar's exchange rate."

The current account is the broadest measure of foreign trade.

At most, officials at the Berlin meeting could send signals that Asian currencies should absorb more of the dollar's fall, Schneider said. The Bush administration has been pressuring China to stop pegging its currency at a fixed rate to the greenback.

"I don't think it is up to the euro to bear the brunt of the problem. We should also be seeing more flexibility

in monetary policy, in Japan and China in particular," German Economics and Labor Minister Wolfgang Clement said Friday during a visit to Thailand. "We should appeal to the U.S. administration to reduce its public sector deficit."

Beijing is sending its finance minister to the Group of 20 meeting—but not People's Bank of China governor Zhou Xiaochuan, whose responsibilities include the yuan's exchange rate.

Analysts say concerted action like the Plaza Accords of 1985, under which the United States, West Germany, Japan, France and Britain agreed to joint action to tamp down a too-strong dollar, is unlikely.

Bush, Hu discuss Chinese currency plans

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Chinese President Hu Jintao told President Bush that China remains committed to a plan to allow its currency to float freely against the dollar, a senior U.S. administration official said.

The talks apparently satisfied Bush, who summarized the economic discussions as an effort "to make sure the relationship is fair and equitable on both sides."

Earlier Saturday, People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan said that while China wants to move to a more liberal exchange rate regime, now isn't the time to discuss specifics.

China could widen the trading band for the yuan against the dol-

lar, but Zhou said China was still implementing the reforms needed to move to a freer exchange rate. He made the comments in Berlin at a meeting of the Group of 20 industrialized nations.

The topic of China's currency, the yuan, was not discussed during ministerial level meetings at the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum this week before the summit started.

American manufacturers contend that China's practice of pegging the yuan to the dollar at a fixed rate has led the Chinese currency to be undervalued by as much as 40 percent, giving Chinese products a tremendous competitive advantage over U.S. products.

Iraq may be relieved of 80 percent of debt

PARIS (AP)—The Paris Club of creditor nations on Saturday was debating a plan to write off as much as 80 percent of the debts Iraq owes them, a key step in the United States' push to ease the financial burden on the nation as it tries to rebuild.

U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow and German Finance Minister Hans Eichel sealed the agreement, Eichel said earlier Saturday, adding that he expected the Paris Club would approve the deal.

Iraq owes around \$42 billion to the members of the Paris Club, a grouping of 19 countries including the United States, Japan, Russia and European nations.

An agreement by the Paris Club to forgive its Iraqi debt would be a significant step toward freeing the coun-

try from paying interest on the money owed just as it struggles to put its economy back on its feet.

Still, Iraq owes another \$80 billion to various Arab governments.

"We agreed that there should be a write-off of debts in several stages amounting to 80 percent in total," Eichel told reporters on the sidelines of a meeting of finance officials from the Group of 20 industrial and developing countries.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder later stressed that "there is no final outcome—there are discussions, particularly with France," which opposed last year's U.S.-led war in Iraq and previously had called for a lower level of debt relief.

Still, the German-U.S. agreement

was being discussed by the Paris Club and "our expectation is that it will be accepted," said Eichel's spokesman, Joerg Mueller.

"We have made substantial progress today - we're advancing toward an agreement. Several details still need to be examined," said a French official close to the Paris Club talks, being held in the French capital.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said an agreement could be announced Sunday.

Eichel said the proposal would see 30 percent of Iraq's Paris Club debt written off immediately, another 30 percent in a second stage "tied to a program of the International Monetary Fund" and a further 20 percent "linked to the success of this program."

SHELL VISOR
CMYK

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Watch Venezuela

This weekend President Bush visits Chile and Colombia, two nations that he will rightly celebrate for their capable democratic governments. But it is foolish to pretend, as does some of the administration's rhetoric, that democracy is thriving across Latin America. In fact, while the Bush administration has been ignoring the region over the past four years, political conditions have seriously deteriorated in several key countries—and the prospect is of still worse developments, especially if U.S. neglect continues.

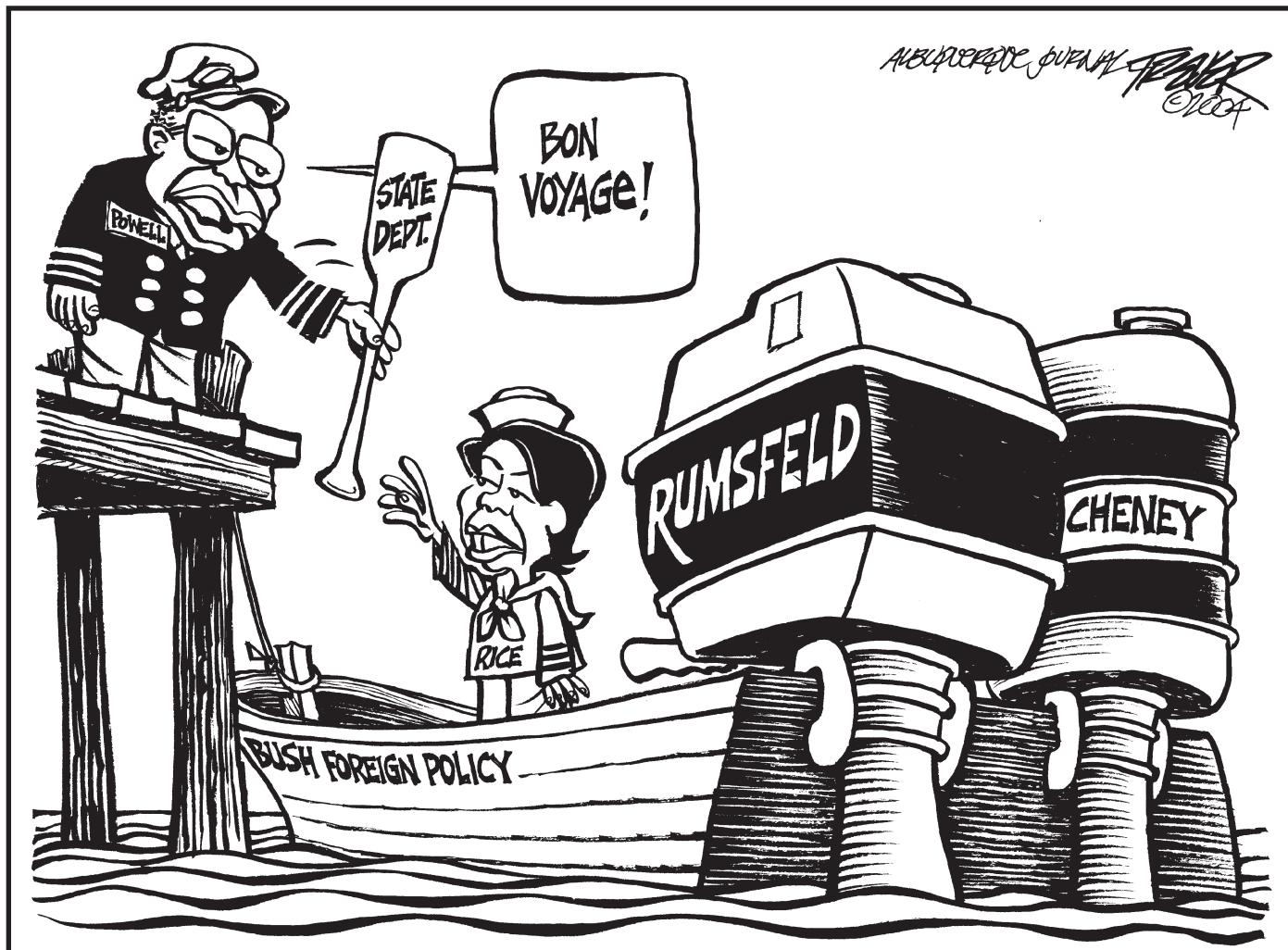
The likely focal point of trouble is Venezuela, a country of 25 million that supplies the United States with 13 percent of its oil. In August, after months of heavy-handed governmental actions to influence the outcome, President Hugo Chavez survived a recall referendum; since then his supporters have gained control of 21 of 23 states, as well as the capital, in local elections. Those triumphs have prompted the erratic former military rebel to accelerate what he calls his "Bolivarian revolution"—a push toward authoritarian rule at home and a deepening alliance abroad with Cuban leader Fidel Castro and other anti-democratic movements.

In the past Chavez has been assailed by independent media who sympathize with his opposition; he has responded with a new media law that will allow his government to suspend the licenses of radio and television stations for content deemed "contrary to the security of the nation." A new penal code will outlaw most forms of public protest and designate some as terrorism. An expansion of the Supreme Court will allow the president to stack the only judicial body that has retained some independence. A campaign has been launched against civil society groups, beginning with the election monitoring group Sumate, whose organizers are threatened with charges of treason. Chavez is using Venezuela's oil revenue to fund anti-democratic or populist movements in nations such as Bolivia and to subsidize Castro's bankrupt regime.

Late Thursday, state prosecutor Danilo Anderson was killed, apparently with a car bomb. He had been preparing to bring charges against some 400 people who signed a statement of support for an interim president after Chavez was briefly ousted in a 2002 coup. The apparent assassination was a shocking and despicable act, from which the opposition—made up largely of mainstream politicians, and business and church leaders—should quickly disassociate itself. But it should not provide a pretext for Chavez to continue seeking the imprisonment of nonviolent political opponents.

It is difficult for the United States to respond to Chavez, in part because he has adopted Castro's practice of portraying the United States as an enemy bent on imperial intervention in Venezuela. Bush's choice for secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, was quoted recently as describing Chavez as "a real problem" and saying that "the key there is to mobilize the region to both watch him and be vigilant about him and to pressure him when he makes moves in one direction or another. We can't do it alone." That sounds like a wise policy; once she takes office, Rice should end the administration's passivity toward this important region and pursue it.

(c) 2004, The Washington Post



CUC and energy conservation: A modest proposal

With all this talk of a fuel surcharge fee being implemented by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the hand-wringing among public and private energy consumers over the exorbitant bills that will be facing them when the December consumption comes due, the escalating utility bill of the government sector that remains unpaid, and the need to conserve energy, as espoused by the REACH Energy Fair held last Saturday, methink it is high time for the CUC to consider how other countries are handling situations similar to the one it is currently faced with.

A worthy idea that CUC should explore is the concept of pre-paid electricity, which was implemented a year ago on the island where I come from, Leyte. For World War II stalwarts and those steeped in all trivia related to that war, Leyte would surely ring a bell, as it was there that Gen. Douglas MacArthur made landfall on his return to the Philippines, fulfilling his promise that "he shall return." Anyway, the local electric cooperative has come up with the idea of pre-paid electricity as a means to encourage people to conserve energy, since one will only use the amount of electricity that one can afford to pay for. It works pretty much the same way that your pre-paid cell phones operate but instead of an electric meter, the utility company installs a gadget to the line supplying power to your house. You also get a keypad inside your house connected to this gadget. The gadget—which the utility company buys from India—is a digital device where the amount of power that you have paid for is encoded. It measures your household's electric power consumption and, when you are about to run out of power credits, it triggers an alarm on the keypad inside your house, signaling that you need to "load up" again. When you go to the utility company to "buy" more power, the company just gives you a PIN number, which you will then encode on the keypad at your house, giving you a fresh load of power credits. Conversely, if you don't go to the utility company to pay for more power, the gadget automatically cuts off the power supply to your household, rendering your home lightless and you fumbling for your supply of candles and matches.

The advantages of this scheme are immediately apparent and are manifold, particularly in a place like the CNMI. First, it will immediately cut down on the excessive and wasteful use of electricity across a very broad sector of the population. As I said, people will only use the amount of electricity that they can afford to pay for, inserting into the equation the need to conserve power to make sure that their supply would extend to, say, the next payday, when they can afford to re-load their power credits, so to speak. Whether residential or commercial, the onus of conserving energy falls on the customer, and will have more weight than just an academic understanding of the need for energy conservation as it is directly proportional to how long they will have electricity.

At the same time, people can actually come up with a specific dollar figure on how much they need to budget for a month's worth

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA

The views expressed are strictly that of the author. Vallejera is the editor of the Saipan Tribune.



of electricity, taking away the need to guess how much their next month's bill is going to amount to as they will have already paid in advance for the month's power supply.

Just like pre-paid cell phones, the utility company can also come up with pre-paid power cards that it can distribute at different outlets on the island, so people can actually just go to, say Joeten, and buy a \$20 pre-paid power card, to which the PIN number is already affixed. All they have to do is scratch out the card and key in the numbers on the keypad, giving them more power.

Of course this will mean a lowering in the revenue of the CUC in the short run but on the other hand, the agency will do away with delinquent accounts and pending receivables. Electricity is more or less an inelastic demand, which means that, much like food, there is a built-in demand for it, whether people don't have money or not. People need electricity even for something as basic as light and must come up with the wherewithal to pay for the power needed to turn on the living room lights, so CUC will still have its customer base and will still earn revenue, with the added bonus that they won't have to wait for people to pay for their last month's bill under the pre-paid arrangement.

It will also mean that linemen could focus more of their work on maintenance to improve and upgrade the grid system instead of wasting their time on disconnecting delinquent customers or reconnecting power to those who have settled their accounts. Under the pre-paid arrangement, a disconnected customer who has found the money to buy, say \$20 worth of power, can just go to any outlets selling power cards, pay up, and then encode the new PIN number, reactivating the power supply to the customer's house. No need anymore for a lineman to physically go to a customer's house to reconnect a line.

Best of all, we can all do away with this endless wrangling between the government and the CUC over utility payments. Everybody has gotten tired of this vicious cycle of blame and finger-pointing, with CUC charging the government of being remiss in its payments, the government arguing that CUC has been overcharging it, then turning around and blaming the Legislature for not appropriating the correct amount needed to pay for the bill. Well, all that will be history once CUC implements the pre-paid scheme. If the government wants to make sure that it has electricity throughout

See CUC on Page 12

CUC*From Page 11*

the year, then the Legislature has to allocate the amount needed to ensure that that happens. At the same time, the government will only be paying for the

actual amount of electricity that it uses and none of this nonsense about a flat rate. CUC, of course, can immediately stop the ballooning amount that it says the government owes it in utility payments. With the government on a pre-paid arrangement, CUC will be assured

that it will get its money on time and in full. What's left to argue about are those bills that remain outstanding before the government went pre-paid.

Of course, critical government agencies such as the hospital, the police, and public schools have to be

exempted from the pre-paid arrangement. It wouldn't do for our surgeons at the Commonwealth Health Center to have the power suddenly cut off while they are in the middle of an operation. Still, pre-paid power will solve a lot of problems and ensure

that people will actually make the effort to conserve energy. And that, if for nothing else, is already a worthy end, putting into action what has long been merely lip service about the need to conserve energy and cut down our consumption of fossil fuel.

Nation

Rebellious Republicans derail 9/11 reform

By JESSE J. HOLLAND

AP WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a defeat for President Bush, rebellious House Republicans on Saturday derailed legislation to overhaul the nation's intelligence agencies along lines recommended by the Sept. 11 commission.

"It's hard to reform. It's hard to make changes," said Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., who sought unsuccessfully to persuade critics among the GOP rank and file to swing behind the measure.

Hastert's decision to send lawmakers home without a vote drew attacks from Democrats, and capped an unpredictable day in which prospects for enactment of the measure seemed to grow, then diminish, almost by the hour. He left open the possibility of summoning law-

makers back in session early next month.

As approved by key negotiators, the White House and the bipartisan 9-11 commission, the compromise would create a powerful position to oversee the CIA and several other non-military spy agencies. A new national counterterrorism center would coordinate the fight against foreign terrorists.

Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney both contacted congressional negotiators by phone in hopes of nailing down an acceptable compromise that could clear Congress in the final hours of a postelection session.

But Reps. Duncan Hunter and Jim Sensenbrenner, chairmen of the Armed Services and Judiciary committees, raised objections. Officials said Hunter, R-Calif., expressed concerns that provisions of the bill could in-

terfere with the military chain of command and endanger troops in the field. Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., wanted additional provisions dealing with immigration, these officials said.

"I am very disappointed that these objections have been raised at the 11th hour and temporarily derailed this bill," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, the primary negotiator on the measure for Senate Republicans.

Collins said it was surprising, given Bush's recent re-election triumph, that Republicans were not willing to approve legislation that he favored and his aides lobbied for throughout the day.

Democrats were biting.

"The commander in chief in the middle of a war says he needs this bill to protect the American people," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., who led Democratic negotiators on the issue.



White House, and the blame for this failure is theirs alone," added House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California.

If lawmakers fail to pass legislation this year, they will render moot three months of hearings and negotiations that started with the commission's July release of its report studying the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Lawmakers would have to start from scratch next year—if they even pick up the issue again. With a new Congress taking office in January, unapproved bills expire and new lawmakers and committee leaders would have to consider any new legislation.

Lawmakers originally thought they had a deal Saturday and the commission, a bipartisan group that sharply criticized the performance of intelligence agencies, had endorsed their work.

The deal "contains not only

Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., tells reporters on Capitol Hill, Saturday, Nov. 20, 2004, that Congress has failed to agree on legislation adopting the Sept. 11 commission's terror-fighting recommendations, in Washington.

He said the development was "particularly shocking after the president, the commander in

chief, has been re-elected."

"Republicans control the House, the Senate, and the

Substance beats style in Scott Peterson murder trial

By BRIAN SKOLOFF

AP WRITER

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. (AP)—In the world of high-profile murder trials, flash is often pitted against substance. Celebrity attorneys, with all their flair, media savvy, expensive suits and teams of tag-alongs, face off against generally clean-cut, methodical and underpaid prosecutors.

But it was the spotlight-dodging prosecutor who claimed

victory in Scott Peterson's double-murder trial after months of bad press for a courtroom style described as "excruciating" by trial watchers.

When the jury found Peterson guilty, lead prosecutor Rick Distaso and his team barreled down the front steps of the courthouse for the first time during the five-month trial and swept across the plaza to cheers of "Thank you Rick!"

It was a rare moment in the sun for Distaso, who slipped

into court through a back door each day and was criticized for presenting a parade of sometimes confusing testimony. At times, he squeaked out objections like a kid complaining on the playground.

Defense attorney Mark Geragos, meanwhile, swaggered past cameras, elicited chuckles inside the courtroom and morphed from loud and accusatory, arms flailing, to whisper-quiet. Reporters trailed behind him like a pack of puppies.

"These guys were the exact opposites," said Chuck Smith, a former San Mateo County prosecutor. "Flash and flamboyance versus dull and methodical."

Geragos dominated at first, turning prosecution witnesses in his favor. A detective had to acknowledge omitting a key witness account that didn't fit the prosecution's theory, and Geragos pointed to unfol-lowed leads that made police look sloppy.

Weeks into the trial, experts

agreed Peterson would probably walk, and a dismissed juror seemed to confirm that suspicion, saying there was no way to convict and griping about the prosecution's case.

But for all his flash, there was one thing Geragos couldn't spin - the fact that the bodies of Laci Peterson and her fetus washed up in San Francisco Bay not two miles from where his client went fishing the day she vanished, Christmas Eve 2002.

Marine killed hours after son's birth

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Marine Lance Cpl. Shane Kielion was killed in action in Iraq not knowing that his first child had been born just hours before.

April Kielion, the Marine's widow and high school sweetheart, gave birth to a boy in Omaha on Monday, said Kielion's old high school football coach, Jay Ball.

"She's hanging in there," Ball said. "She's a strong woman. She's got a terrific family and lots of supportive friends."

The baby was named Shane Kielion Jr., said April Kielion's father, Don Armstrong. He said his daughter was "doing as well as to be expected under the pressure."

Shane Kielion, a rifleman in the 1st Marine Division of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, was killed Monday in Al Anbar Province, the military said.

Officials at Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he was stationed, refused to comment on how he was killed. Anbar Province includes Fallujah—which American forces now control after a lengthy offensive—as well as other guerrilla strongholds.

The family is numb, said Ball. "It's time for them to do some healing," Ball said.

Kielion joined the Marines on Dec. 3, 2002, and this was his second tour in Iraq.

Ball said Kielion had come home to visit in August, and bragged about his family.

"He was excited about his baby on the way and he always told me how beautiful his wife was," Ball told KMTV News in Omaha.

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Mourners remember marine killed in Iraq

COVINGTON, La. (AP)—Before he left for the war, a Marine who was killed in Iraq had a friend memorize messages to give to each member of his family in case something happened to him.

Mourners gathered Friday to reflect on the messages and bid farewell to Lance Cpl. Justin Daniel McLeese, who was killed Nov. 13 in a booby-trapped building in Fallujah.

McLeese's sister, Tara, shared her message with more than 500 people who packed a Catholic church for her brother's funeral in Covington, north of New Orleans.

"He said that he would be watching over me and that I was his hero," she said through tears.

"Well, Justin, you were my hero. You were a hero to all of us, and we will carry you in our hearts forever."

Relatives said McLeese, who was scheduled to return from Iraq in January, was deeply affected by the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Pfc. Phil Demaire IV, who joined the Marines with McLeese, said McLeese would "stand 10 inches taller when he wore the uniform."

Retired Archbishop Phillip Hannan told mourners that McLeese "died for a cause that is a tremendous benefit and interest to all of us. I'd like to assure all of you, Justin did not die in vain."

(Substitutes fifth paragraph to correct erroneous reference to McLeese being able to refuse combat duty.)

Kan. man protests porn opponents

SALINA, Kan. (AP)—A man spent a week on the roof of one of two adult bookstores in town to protest a movement to have the stores investigated for obscenity.

Ray Morris, 38, came down from his perch on top of Behind Closed Doors on Saturday morning after staying in a tent there since the previous Saturday.

"I can't stress enough that I am not promoting porn," Morris said. "I'm promoting the idea of choice. Everyone has a right to choose whether they want to enter these stores."

Some local residents are gathering signatures in a petition drive to force a grand jury to investigate whether Behind Closed Doors and another store, Priscilla's, are promoting obscenity by selling sex products.

A similar petition drive in nearby Abilene resulted in grand jury indictments against the Lion's Den adult bookstore.

During his stint on the roof, Morris displayed a sign urging passing motorists to honk if they support his cause, but a

few people also made obscene gestures toward him, he said.

Morris, a cosmetics salesman, said he wants state legislators to change the state's obscenity laws or remove them altogether.

Video prompts LA airport police probe

LOS ANGELES (AP)—City officials are calling for an investigation of Los Angeles International Airport police after hidden cameras captured several officers abandoning their posts and ignoring emergency radio calls.

"I am very concerned about airport police officers neglecting their duties," Mayor James K. Hahn wrote to Kim Day, executive director of the airport agency. "Security at the airport must not be compromised."

The camera footage broadcast Thursday by KCBS-TV appeared to show officers spending hours of their shifts away from the airport or staying at the airport but not working.

It also showed police chatting at a restaurant while ignoring radio calls about abandoned suitcases, and using a patrol car to pick up a child at school.

KCBS reporters followed officers for two months with hidden cameras.

The airport police force employs 300 officers.

Airport Police Chief Bernard J. Wilson said a department probe already is under way and two employees have been placed on administrative leave with pay.

"I will not tolerate misconduct," Wilson added. "And I won't allow the reputation of the airport police to be tarnished by a few."

Mother pleads guilty to exploiting sons

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A woman accused of engaging in sex acts with her young sons while her husband photographed them has pleaded guilty to child exploitation charges.

Terri Michele Anderson said she had sexual contact with the boys, both under the age of 8, to please her husband, according to FBI documents.

In exchange for the plea to two charges of sexual exploitation of a minor on Friday, federal prosecutors agreed to drop four additional charges against Anderson, 28. Each count carries a mandatory minimum of 10 years in prison and a maximum of 20 years. Sentencing was set for March.

Her husband, Keith Anderson, 46, pleaded guilty Monday to six counts of sexual exploitation of a child. He allegedly has admitted posting some of the images on the Internet.

The children, whose surname is not Anderson, were removed from the home before the charges were filed.

Keith Anderson had been convicted in 1997 of sexual abuse of a child, and was listed as a registered sex offender on a Web site maintained by the state.

Official urges end to stun guns on kids

MIAMI (AP)—The head of Miami-Dade Schools is asking police to never again use stun guns on elementary school children, as officers have in at least two recent cases.

In a letter released Friday, Superintendent Rudy Crew told Miami-Dade Police Director Bobby Parker that "certain tactics should never be used in dealing with young children—particularly within a school."

The letter was released the same day Parker held a news

conference to defend the use of a 50,000-volt stun gun on a 6-year-old boy in a school office, saying the child had cut himself twice with a shard of glass and was threatening further harm to himself.

Parker acknowledged that it was questionable when an officer used a Taser stun gun on a 12-year-old girl, who was fleeing officers because she was drunk and apparently skipping school.

Police officials did not return a call Saturday seeking comment on Crew's letter.

On Friday, Parker said officials were reviewing their policy on stun gun use but that officers will be allowed to continue using them until the review is complete.

The 6-year-old boy who was stunned on Oct. 20 was treated

and then hospitalized for psychiatric observation for five days. A lawyer retained by his mother has not yet decided whether to file suit.

The girl was checked by a doctor after she was zapped Nov. 5. The officer in that case voluntarily gave up his Taser, police spokesman Pete Andreu said.

San Francisco considers plastic bag fee

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—City officials are considering charging grocery stores 17 cents each for grocery bags to discourage use of plastic sacks.

More than 90 percent of consumers choose plastic bags, which are blamed for everything from clogging recycling machines to

killing marine life and suffocating infants. But the fee would also apply to paper bags to help reduce overall waste.

Promoting a healthy environment "means we need to help change people's patterns, and that even means their shopping patterns," said incoming city Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, who takes office in January. "This is a sensible user fee."

The city's Commission on the Environment will consider the proposal Tuesday. Mayor Gavin Newsom is reviewing the idea.

The city's Department of the Environment estimates San Francisco customers bring home about 50 million bags each year. That accounts for about 2 percent of waste, at an annual cleanup cost of about \$8.4 million.

SAIPAN CELL
CMYK

Asia

Prominent dissident released in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—One of Myanmar's best known and longest-imprisoned political dissidents has been freed as part of a general release of almost 4,000 prisoners granted by the country's ruling junta, a family member confirmed Saturday.

Min Ko Naing, 42, whose real name is Paw U Tun, is one of about two dozen political detainees believed to have been released since Thursday, when the junta announced it was suspending the sentences of 3,937 prisoners whom it said had been improperly charged.

There was no indication, however, that Myanmar's most famous prisoner, Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, would be freed from house arrest at her Yangon residence. She has been detained since May last year after a deadly clash between her followers and government supporters.

Suu Kyi's opposition National League for Democracy party said it believed 600 people had been released Friday, of whom just 20 were political prisoners only five of them belonged to the party.

It urged that the releases continue. There were no reports of any new releases Saturday.

Min Ko Naing's family member, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed that the charismatic activist was back home in Yangon after being released from a prison in Sittwe in northwestern Myanmar.

Min Ko Naing was a university student in the Myanmar capital and was a leader of a 1988 popular uprising against military rule, in place since 1962.

For his political work he adopted the pseudonym Min Ko Naing, which means "Conqueror of Kings." As founding chairman of All Burma Federation of Students Union, he called in August 1988 for students throughout the country to struggle peacefully for democracy.

After the military violently suppressed the 1988 pro-democracy demonstrations, he was arrested and in March 1989 sentenced to 20 years in jail for his political activities.

The sentence was later commuted to 10 years, but he was kept in detention under a law that allows imprisonment without charges or trial.

State-run radio and television announced Thursday night that the amnesty prisoners had been wrongly charged by the former



AP

This undated photo released by Amnesty International in London shows Min Ko Naing, a student leader imprisoned for his part in 1988 mass pro-democracy demonstration in Myanmar and who has been freed after 15 years with his family in the Myanmar capital Yangon, relatives said Saturday, Nov. 20, 2004.

National Intelligence Bureau, dissolved by the junta last month.

The bureau had been headed by former Prime Minister Gen. Khin Nyunt, who was ousted Oct. 19 and later accused of corruption and insubordination.

His ouster was widely seen as a setback for efforts at political reconciliation in Myanmar, and sullied the junta's already poor image.

The releases came just before Myanmar was to attend a sum-

mit meeting this month of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, where its hard-line polices were expected to face scrutiny from its neighbors.

The releases have drawn international approval, but also calls for the freedom of all political detainees, usually estimated to number over 1,200.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan considered the junta's action "an important step towards creating an environment conducive to genuine national reconciliation in Myanmar," U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said in New York.

Annan called for the release of all political prisoners, as did spokesmen for the U.S. and British governments.

Their freedom is a major demand of the United Nations and Western countries critical of the junta's poor human rights record and its failure to hand over power to Suu Kyi's party, which won a 1990 general election.

The U.S. Campaign for Burma, a Washington-based group that lobbies for regime change in Myanmar and has extensive sources inside Myanmar, said Min Ko Naing's eyesight had deteriorated badly in prison.

UN: Afghanistan sees increase in opium

BRUSSELS, Belgium

(AP)—Heroin production is booming in Afghanistan, undermining democracy and putting money in the coffers of terrorists, according to a U.N. report Thursday that called on U.S. and NATO-led forces to get more involved in fighting drug traffickers.

"Fighting narcotics is equivalent to fighting terrorism," said Antonio Maria Costa, executive director of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime. "It would be an historical error to abandon Afghanistan to opium, right after we reclaimed it from the Taliban and al-Qaida."

Yet while all sides agree on the goal, disputes over tactics surfaced.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai called fighting the narcotics industry his "top priority," but came out Thursday against U.S. proposals to use crop dusters, citing possible risks to the health of villagers.

"The government of Afghanistan opposes the aerial spraying of poppy fields as an instrument of eradication," Karzai's office in Kabul said.

Despite the political progress epitomized by Karzai's election, and local drug control efforts led by British military advisers, the U.N. agency

said cultivation of opium—the raw material for heroin—has spread to all of Afghanistan, with 10 percent of the population benefiting from the trade.

This year's cultivation was up by nearly two-thirds, it found. Bad weather and disease kept production from setting a record, although Afghanistan still accounted for 87 percent of the world supply, up from 76 percent in 2003.

Opium is the "main engine of economic growth and the strongest bond among previously quarrelsome peoples," the report said. It valued the trade at \$2.8 billion, or more than 60 percent of Afghanistan's 2003 gross domestic product.

Most is smuggled across the eastern border with Pakistan, where Taliban and al-Qaida remnants demand transit and protection fees, Costa told reporters.

Calling the problem "overwhelming" for the weak Afghan army and government, Costa called on U.S.- and NATO-led forces to help out more in operations against drug labs and convoys of traffickers.

America and Britain are training small paramilitary units to smash laboratories and arrest drug suspects.

Generally, though, NATO

Afghan given death in reporters' murders

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—

Afghan judges sentenced a man to death Saturday over the slaying of three foreign journalists and an Afghan colleague, who were pulled from their cars, robbed and shot as they rushed to cover the collapse of the Taliban.

The judges also convicted Reza Khan of raping an Italian reporter before she died in one of the deadliest attacks on foreign civilians since the fall of the former hardline regime.

"You are sentenced to death," Presiding Judge Abdul Baset Bakhtyari told Khan at Afghanistan's Primary National Security Court.

Armed men stopped the journalists as they drove from the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad to the capital on Nov. 19, 2001, six days after the Taliban abandoned Kabul following heavy U.S. bombing.

The four were Australian TV cameraman Harry Burton and Afghan photographer Azizullah Haidari of Reuters news agency, Maria Grazia Cutuli of Italian newspaper Corriere

della Sera, and Julio Fuentes of the Spanish El Mundo daily. Afghan media had speculated that enraged Taliban and al-Qaida forces falling back from Kabul had killed the reporters.

It was unclear whether Khan, who listened impassively as the verdict was announced, would appeal the death sentence or a separate 15-year jail term for committing "adultery by force" with Cutuli. In court, he denied committing the killings or the rape.

Italian diplomats observing the trial declined to comment on the conviction.

In a confession broadcast on Afghan state television in August, Khan admitted shooting one of the foreigners—it was unclear which—and raping Cutuli. He said the motive was banditry rather than politics.

But, appearing in court Wednesday wearing a traditional woolen cap and a yellow blanket around his shoulders, he said another member of the gang called Rohullah shot the journalists and denied the rape charge.

YJC AUTO SHAOP

US commander: N. Korea may sell nukes



Portraits of the late North Korean leader Kim Il Sung, left, and the current leader Kim Jong Il are hang on the wall at the People's Culture Center in Pyongyang in North Korea, in this photo taken in May, 2004.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Im-
poverished North Korea might resort
to selling weapons-grade plutonium
to terrorists for much-needed cash,
and that would be “disastrous for the
world,” the top U.S. military com-
mander in South Korea said Friday.

Gen. Leon J. LaPorte said the
communist state may have harvested
plutonium from 8,000 spent nu-
clear rods, which experts say could
yield enough material for several
atomic bombs.

The North’s intent was a mystery,
but “from the military standpoint,
they do have a capability that we
must address,” LaPorte said during
a breakfast meeting of retired South
Korean air force officers.

In early 2003, North Korea with-
drew from the Nuclear Nonprolif-
eration Treaty. It has since said it
completed reprocessing its spent fuel
rods. In September, a North Korean
diplomat claimed that the country
“weaponized” the nuclear fuel.

“And there is concern that North
Korea, in its desire for hard currency,
would sell weapons-grade plutonium
to some terrorist organizations,” La-
Porte said. “That would be disastrous
for the world.”

LaPorte’s comments come as
nuclear talks with North Korea have
broken down.

U.S. officials have already desig-
nated the isolated and impoverished
North as a key proliferator of mis-
siles, missile technology and other
military hardware. And North Korea
has recently threatened to strengthen
its “nuclear deterrent” to counter what

it calls a U.S. plot to launch a nuclear
war against it.

It said it will return to nuclear talks
when Washington drops a “hostile”
policy toward the North. It seeks
economic aid and U.S. guarantees of
nonaggression in return for giving up
its nuclear desire.

Since last year, the two Koreas,
China, Japan, Russia and the United
States have held three rounds of talks
aimed at curbing North Korea’s nu-
clear ambitions, but no breakthrough
has been reported.

A fourth round slated for Septem-
ber failed to go ahead because North
Korea refused to attend.

Some 33,000 U.S. soldiers are
based in South Korea—a legacy of
the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended
without a peace treaty.

ASIAN Brief

Three killed after typhoon slams RP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—At least three people were killed and more than 3,300 others evacuated after a typhoon hammered the northern Philippines, officials said Saturday.

Typhoon Muifa toppled trees and telephone lines as it sliced through the Bicol region on the main Philippine island of Luzon late Friday, with sustained winds of 120 kilometers (75 miles) per hour and gusts of up 150 kph (94 mph).

The typhoon destroyed about 300 houses and damaged more than 1,500 others in the provinces of Camarines Norte, Sorsogon, Catanduanes and Masbate southeast of Manila, the Office of Civil Defense said.

The typhoon, which originated as a tropical depression Sunday, lingered over the sea close to Catanduanes for nearly five days before gaining strength and blowing westward into Bicol, said weather forecaster Alma Ferraris.

Govt doctor kidnapped in southern RP

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)—A government doctor has been abducted by suspected Muslim extremists on a southern Philippine island, the military said Saturday.

Dr. Avelio Canda was seized late Friday from a government hospital in Parang town by seven gunmen believed to be members of the extremist Abu Sayyaf group, said Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, a task force commander on Jolo island.

Canda was forced to board a passenger mini-bus at gunpoint. Soldiers and police were in pursuit of the kidnappers, some wearing masks and wearing military camouflage uniforms, Dema-ala said.

Dema-ala said road blocks and checkpoints were set up around Parang, about 950 kilometers (594 miles) south of Manila.

It was not immediately clear why Canda was taken. The Abu Sayyaf, which has been linked to al-Qaida, have kidnapped people, including foreigners, for ransom, but they have also seized medical workers to treat their wounded.

Truck bombing kills 18 police in India

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—A land mine planted by suspected communist rebels blew up a police truck in northern India on Saturday, killing 18 officers, police said.

The attack happened near Naughar, a village 250 miles southeast of Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh state, said Yashpal Singh, a police director-general.

Singh said there were 30 police officers in the truck and they were searching for suspected rebels who killed three forest guards on Thursday.

Some of the 12 officers who survived the assault were wounded, Singh said.

The rebels claim to draw inspiration from Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong. They began fighting government forces in 1981, demanding a communist government and land redistribution.

Report: China releases Tiananmen protester

BELJING (AP)—A factory worker who helped to organize a strike during China’s 1989 pro-democracy protests has been released after nearly 15 years in prison, a U.S.-based prison rights group said Saturday.

Chen Gang reportedly was convicted of “hooliganism” and sentenced to life in prison following the violent crackdown that ended the 1989 protests centered on Tiananmen Square in central Beijing, the Dui Hua Foundation said.

Chen was released in April after the government reduced his sentence several times, the foundation said, citing information it said it had just received from China’s Justice Ministry.

PHI GRAND

Health & Fitness

Life & Style

Prosecution decries Jackson's lawyers

The prosecution in Michael Jackson's child molestation case has accused the defense of abusing the judicial process with sweeping demands for medical records of the alleged victim and his family, including gynecological records for his mother and information on his 3-month-old brother.

In court records unsealed Friday, the Santa Barbara County district attorney's office blasted subpoenas from Jackson's team and a court order that bars people who received them from

notifying prosecutors.

The defense "has grossly abused the process of the court" by seeking information that violates privacy rights and "could not possibly lead to evidence relevant" to Jackson's defense, prosecutors contended in the motion filed Thursday.

A response from the defense was not immediately made public. Lawyers in the case are under a gag order not to discuss it.

Jackson has pleaded not guilty to child molestation, conspiracy and administering an intoxicat-

ing agent, alcohol, to a boy. His trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 31 but Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville has been working through a blizzard of pretrial motions by both sides.

The prosecution's court filing asks Melville to overturn his July 9 order prohibiting people from telling the prosecution that they had been subpoenaed by the defense. The DA's office also asks the judge to order defense lawyers to stop their "everything-but-the-kitchen-sink" approach.

Melville was scheduled to take up the issue at a Nov. 29 hearing.

In a court declaration, prosecutor Ronald Zonen said Jackson's attorneys have demanded "copies of X-rays, lab tests, MRI film, ultrasounds, gynecological records, billing records, examinations, medical diagnosis and history of medications."

"There is nothing a medical institution can do to a patient or for a patient that is not demanded by the defendant's subpoena," Zonen said.

The defense also has sought mental health records that the prosecution and family contend are confidential.

The family is "convinced that sensitive materials subpoenaed by Defendant will ultimately end up on NBC or CNN," Zonen said.

The prosecution also contended that the defense has sought information on the family's finances, including records of bank account deposits and withdrawals, retirement accounts, trusts, corporations and joint ventures. (AP)



An antiques and furniture store has sued pop star Michael Jackson, shown April 30, 2004, for allegedly failing to pay a nearly \$180,000 bill. (AP)

TAN HOLDINGS CORP. PDI

Columbine in the making

MOVIE REVIEW

Wow, I haven't had so much fun since my last root canal. While watching *The SpongeBob Squarepants Movie*, I squirmed in my seat for the longest 88 minutes of my life, and could only wonder why so many people have taken a liking to the little bugger. This migraine of a movie is for fans of the show, only.

It's easy to understand why kids like him. He's hyper, silly, and crude, with doo-doo and ding-dong jokes aplenty. But parents? I don't get it.



Does parenthood numb the mind so much that a pointless sight-gag involving David Hasselhoff's chest is somehow hilarious? I just don't get it.

At the open of *The SpongeBob Squarepants Movie*, SpongeBob is denied the promotion to manager, at work. Things get worse when his boss is framed for the theft of the king's crown. This presents an opportunity, however, for SpongeBob and best buddy Patrick to save the day, by venturing to Shell City to retrieve the stolen goods.

SpongeBob ends up saving the day, of course, and in the process, everybody learns a nice little lesson about how it's okay to be a kid. Awww, how sweet. Problem is, the lesson is totally contrived and carries about as much emotional weight as the "knowing is half the battle" hoo-ha at the end of a G.I. Joe episode. And here's what's really messed up—the lessons the kids will learn in *The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie* are more than a little suspect.

When SpongeBob is rejected from promotion, he heads to the bar and goes on a drinking binge with Patrick. They get completely trashed and party the night away. Sure, the alcohol is disguised as ice cream, but kids aren't stupid. Five-year-olds will miss the joke, but anybody over 12 will see, quite clearly, that SpongeBob and Patrick are

getting drunk and having a lot of fun doing it. So, Nickelodeon's most popular cartoon is promoting drug abuse. Nice work, Bob. Why don't you spark a doob and shoot some smack while you're at it?

Worse yet is the abject abundance of gleeful violence on display. Violence sells, so its use is rampant, but at least in most children's movies it's portrayed in a way to show that it is bad and scary. In *SpongeBob* it's supposed to be funny.

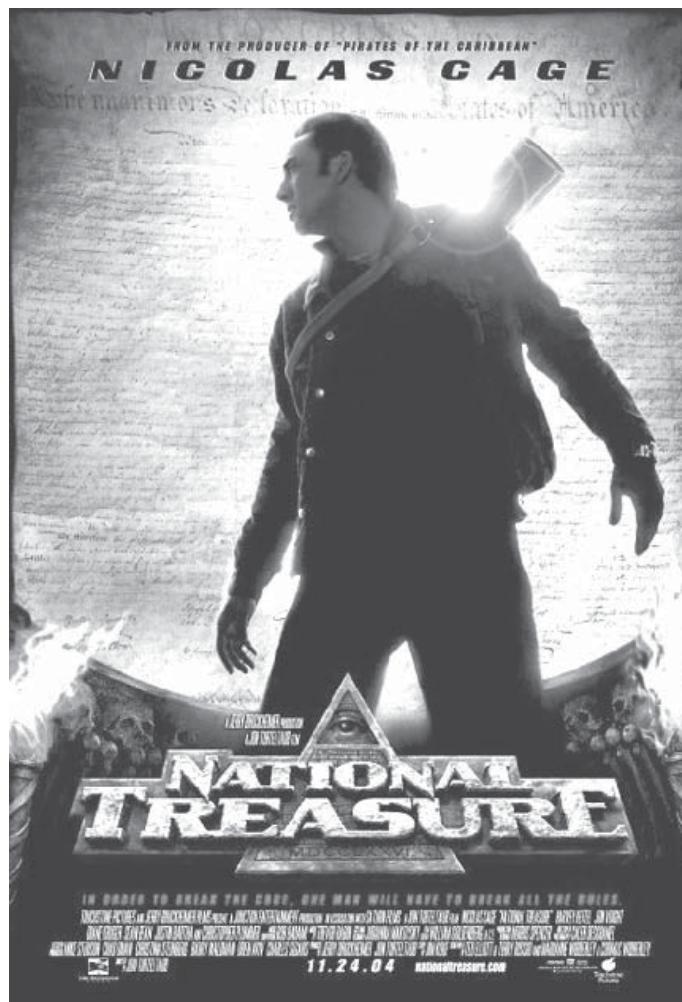
Hey, that guy got punched in the face. What a hoot. Look, that guy was brutally beaten by a mob of thugs. I can't stop laughing. And we wonder why America is so violent. When Columbine happens again, don't blame Marilyn Manson or Eminem. Blame SpongeBob.

De Vinci Code for Dummies

Producer Jerry Bruckheimer (*Pearl Harbor*, *Bad Boys 2*) likes to blow stuff up. I'm absolutely certain that if Beavis and Butthead produced movies, their work would be identical to his. He knows the formula. Take a big-name actor, and surround him with a plucky sidekick, at least one car chase, big explosions, and a hot chick with nice boobs. Uhhhehehe. Hey, Beavis. I said boobs.

That's not to say Bruckheimer isn't a business genius. Over the last decade, alone, his movies have combined to top \$200 billion. Hey, that's almost enough to manufacture a war in the Middle East. *National Treasure*

is exactly what you should expect from the king of the popcorn flick. It's not a good movie, and will be forgotten in a few years. It is, however, kind of fun, and in the end, isn't that all that matters?



Plausibility is completely thrown out the window in *National Treasure*. I had completely lost the ability to suspend disbelief by the time Nicholas Cage discovered the holographic image drawn, with invisible ink, on the back of the Declaration of Independence.

With sidekick and hot chick in tow, Cage searches like a madman for long lost treasure, following cryptic clues left behind by America's founding fathers. I loved the manner in which Cage decoded the riddles, like Batman dissecting a note from the Riddler. "Hmmm... '2-29', what could it mean? Let's see, tomorrow is Feb. 29th, so this is leap year. Leap. Frogs like to leap. French people eat frog legs. Of course. The Riddler is hiding in the Eiffel Tower!"

Pseudo-science and faux intellectualism are the rule in *National Treasure*, a movie that wants to be

the big screen adaptation of "The de Vinci Code", but comes closer to *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*. This is what happens when Hollywood screenwriters try to be smart.

If it's so stupid, though, what does *National*

Treasure have going for itself? I think I already said it—plucky sidekick, at least one car chase, big explosions, and a hot chick with nice boobs. Oh, and my sister says "Nicholas Cage is still hot". I don't see it. I look at him and see an albino turtle with a hangover. Since I don't play for the other team, however, I guess my vote doesn't count.

National Treasure is proof that fun doesn't have to be smart. It's got a little adventure and some very funny moments. It's certainly not a great movie, but it is decent, brainless entertainment, and that's just fine.



By JOE WEINDL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Comments? E-mail Weindl at joewatchesmovies@yahoo.com.

verizon
cmyk

Widower with new companion has issues with old family

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: A year ago, I lost my wife of 16 years to cancer. "Ethel" and I didn't have a perfect marriage, but we worked at it. We both had grown children from first marriages. We also had a child together, a boy, "Ben," who is 13.

Last spring I began seeing a very nice lady I'll call Blanche. Ethel's daughters have little to do with me since their mother's death and are encouraging Ben to be rude and distant to Blanche. I realize Ben has issues, but I have tried to explain to him that life goes on. Blanche is not trying to replace his mother; she would like to be his friend.

My question is, when should I tell my in-laws about Blanche?

To everyone reading this: If at all possible, become a donor of some sort. My eternal thanks to the caring individual who gave his bone marrow to Ethel in an effort to save a complete stranger. God bless you.

NEEDS TO MOVE ON IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR NEEDS: Ethel's daughters most likely have already told your in-laws about Blanche, so you should tell them the "news" now. If you don't, it will appear that you are sneaking around—and it's important not to create that impression. It may be painful for Ethel's relatives to hear, so don't be surprised if they are less than thrilled.

Family counseling might be helpful for you, your son, and Ethel's daughters if they are open to it. Should the "girls" refuse, go with Ben. He is still young, and he lost his mother at a time when he still needed her. You are probably further along in the grieving process than your son because you had a chance to grieve for your wife during her illness.

For Ben's sake, I hope you take your time before remarrying. He apparently needs more time to adjust and to understand that the new lady in your life is not a threat to his mother's memory.

□ □ □ □

DEAR ABBY: I met my biological father last June, after waiting 15 years to do so. His side of the family was very warm and welcoming. They treated me as though they had known me all my life. I was nervous about meeting them, so I took my boyfriend. They treated him like family too.

I have not told my mom that I went to see the other family, because she would no longer speak to me, and I don't want her mad at me. My parents had an extremely bitter divorce. Mom still holds a grudge, and she expects me to as well.

I am being married soon, and now I am being forced to choose between my mom and my biological father. I would like everyone to be there, and for my stepdad to walk me down the aisle. My fiance likes my biological father and his side of the family and wants them all to be there, too. I am stuck in the middle. What should I do?

IN THE MIDDLE OUT WEST

DEAR IN THE MIDDLE: It's time to grow up and tell your mother what you did. Although the divorce was devastating, you have the right to know your father and paternal relatives if you wish. Ask her, as her wedding gift to you, to bury her enmity for one day so you can have the wedding of your dreams. Many other families have done this, and the experience can be healing.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Dear Abby

Rapper Young Buck surrenders to police

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—A rapper surrendered Friday to face charges that he stabbed a man who had punched hip-hop superstar Dr. Dre during the taping of a music awards show.

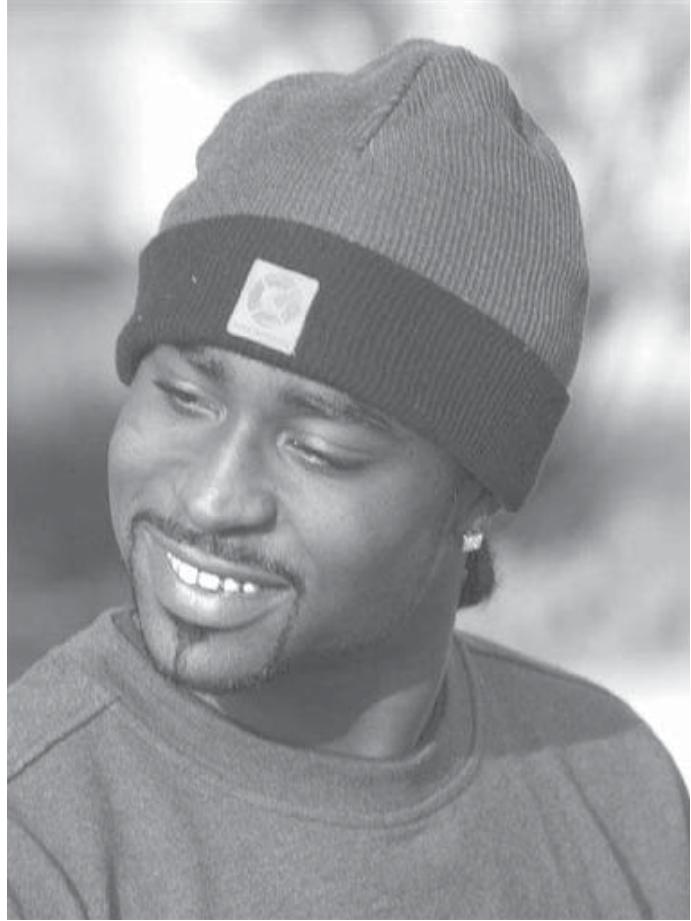
Young Buck, whose real name is David Darnell Brown, turned himself in at police headquarters and was arrested for investigation of one count of attempted murder and one count of assault with a deadly weapon.

Brown, wearing a knit cap and heavy chain necklace, was released on \$500,000 bail after being ordered to appear at a Dec. 20 arraignment, Lt. Frank Fabrega said.

Brown was identified on a videotape of the melee that erupted during the taping of the Vibe Awards on Monday in a hangar at the Santa Monica Airport. The tape appears to show Brown wielding a knife, but his attorney warned against jumping to conclusions.

"Remember one thing, pictures may be deceiving," said the attorney, Scott Leemon.

Leemon declined to discuss



details of the case, but noted the rapper would perform this weekend in Virginia, North Carolina and Alabama.

The brawl began when a man approached Dr. Dre and punched him as he was about to receive a lifetime achievement award. Police allege that Brown, 23, then stabbed that assailant.

That man was later identified as Jimmy James Johnson, 26, a parolee from Los Angeles. Johnson suffered a collapsed lung and was in stable condition Friday. Police have been unable to interview him due to his medical condition.

Investigators were also trying to identify two other men seen holding knives during the fight.

Young Buck is signed to Dr. Dre's record label, and his debut solo album, "Straight Outta Ca\$hville," debuted at No. 3 on the Billboard charts in August.

Many in the constantly feuding rap community speculated that longtime Dre nemesis Suge Knight, who attended the awards, arranged for Dre to get punched. Knight has denied any involvement.

Former Blake co-defendant refuses to talk

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jury selection in the Robert Blake murder case was interrupted briefly Friday for an appearance by a former co-defendant of Blake's who said he will refuse to testify at the trial.

Earle Caldwell, Blake's former handyman, took the witness stand only long enough to invoke his constitutional right against self-incrimination. His attorney told Superior Court Judge Darlene Schempp that Caldwell intends to answer no questions because of the possibility he could be charged again.

Schempp dismissed a conspiracy count against Caldwell last year.

Jury selection continued after Caldwell's appearance; the judge said she hoped to have it concluded by Tuesday.

Outside court, Caldwell's lawyer, Dana Cole, said the district attorney's office never offered Caldwell immunity from prosecution to testify against his former boss. Without that, he said, Caldwell would not testify.

"The prosecution has put him in this very difficult position," Cole said.

Prosecutors said Caldwell helped Blake plan his wife's murder. They produced as evidence a list they said he prepared that included such items as shovels, a sledge, duct tape, lye, pool acid and the notation, "Get blank gun ready." His attorneys argued those were typical handyman items.

The judge ruled the evidence was too weak to warrant prosecuting Caldwell.

Jim Carrey says he's drug-free

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Living a life free of Prozac, drugs and alcohol has helped comedian Jim Carrey deal with depression, he told the CBS program "60 Minutes." In an interview scheduled to air Sunday, Carrey said he took Prozac for a long time but it didn't cure his depression.

"I had to get off at a certain point because I realized that ...

everything is just OK," Carrey said in an interview with "60 Minutes" reporter Steve Kroft at his home in Brentwood, parts of which aired Friday on KCBS-TV.

"There are peaks, there are valleys, but they're all kind of carved and smoothed out ... It feels like a low level of despair you live in where you're not getting any answers but you're

living OK and you can smile at the office."

Carrey said he is living without the perks from drugs and alcohol.

"I rarely drink coffee. I am very serious about no alcohol, no drugs," he said. "Life is too beautiful."

Carrey's film credits include "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," "The Mask" and "The Truman Show."

Kokomo' co-writer Terry Melcher dies

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Terry Melcher, a record producer and songwriter who aided the careers of Ry Cooder, the Byrds and the Beach Boys, has died, his publicist announced Saturday. He was 62.

Melcher, the son of actress Doris Day, died Friday night at his Beverly Hills home after a long battle with melanoma.

Melcher co-wrote the hit song "Kokomo" for the Beach Boys. The song was used in the movie "Cocktail" and was nominated for a Golden Globe in 1988 for best original song. He also performed on the Beach Boys album "Pet Sounds."

In the early 1960s, Melcher began singing as a solo act and



Melcher

later paired with future Beach Boy Bruce Johnston to form the group Bruce & Terry. The pair had several hits, then went

on to form the Rip Chords, which recorded the 1964 hit "Hey, Little Cobra."

In the mid-1960s, Melcher joined Columbia Records as a producer. Working with the Byrds, he produced their top-selling version of Bob Dylan's "Mr. Tambourine Man" and other hits, including "Turn, Turn, Turn."

Melcher also produced hit songs for Paul Revere and the Raiders and worked with Gram Parsons, the Mamas and the Papas, and Ry Cooder.

He served as the executive producer of his mother's CBS show, "The Doris Day Show," from 1968 to 1972 and co-produced her mid-1980s show, "Doris Day's Best Friends."

Thurman, boyfriend buy Guccione Estate

STAATSBURG, N.Y. (AP)—The former Hudson Valley estate of Penthouse magazine founder Bob Guccione is being sold to hotelier Andre Balazs and actress Uma Thurman, according to the property's auctioneer.

George Cole Auctions sold off the contents of Guccione's former summer house at the end of the summer. Cole, who

is also a licensed real estate broker, said Balazs and Thurman attended the auction, expressed interest in the property and have a contract to buy it.

Cole declined to disclose the purchase price, but told the Daily Freeman in Kingston that he expects the closing before Dec. 15. The 55-acre estate and 16-room mansion

in the hamlet of Staatsburg are 60 miles south of Albany.

Guccione lost the property, which he called "The Willows," in February after defaulting on a \$14.5 million loan. Last year he resigned as chief executive of Penthouse International, three months after the publishing arm of the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Pastimes



James, Ilgauskas lead Cavaliers over Wizards

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James scored 24 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 21 and the Cleveland Cavaliers won their third straight game after an 0-3 start, beating the Washington Wizards 105-74 Saturday.

"We're just getting started," James said. "We're getting better every game."

Drew Gooden added 15 rebounds and 14 points while Jeff McInnis had 13 points and 11 assists for the Cavaliers.

James scored nine of the Cavaliers' first 11 in the fourth, taking over just as he did Wednesday when he outscored Phoenix 17-14 in the final 12 minutes and the Cavs overcame a 19-point deficit to win.

"He's the best," Cavs coach Paul Silas said. "He's unbelievable. He wants the ball and he wants the responsibility. Everything we need, he provides. He's so special."

The reigning rookie of the year came into the game as the NBA's second leading scorer and Cleveland's undisputed leader. Entering the game, James had accounted for 40 percent of the Cavaliers' points in the fourth quarter.

Gilbert Arenas scored 25 points to lead the Wizards. Antawn Jamison had 14 and nine rebounds for Washington, which was held to 28 points under its average.

Mavericks 94, Nets 78

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Jerry Stackhouse hit all five of his third-quarter shots and scored a season-high 28 points, leading Dallas over New Jersey.

Dirk Nowitzki added 31 points, seven rebounds, seven assists and four of Dallas' 12 steals in helping the revamped Mavericks win for the sixth time in seven games.

Richard Jefferson had 28 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Nets, who lost for the third time in four home games. Point guard Zoran Planinic had a career-high 16 points and Eric Williams added 15.

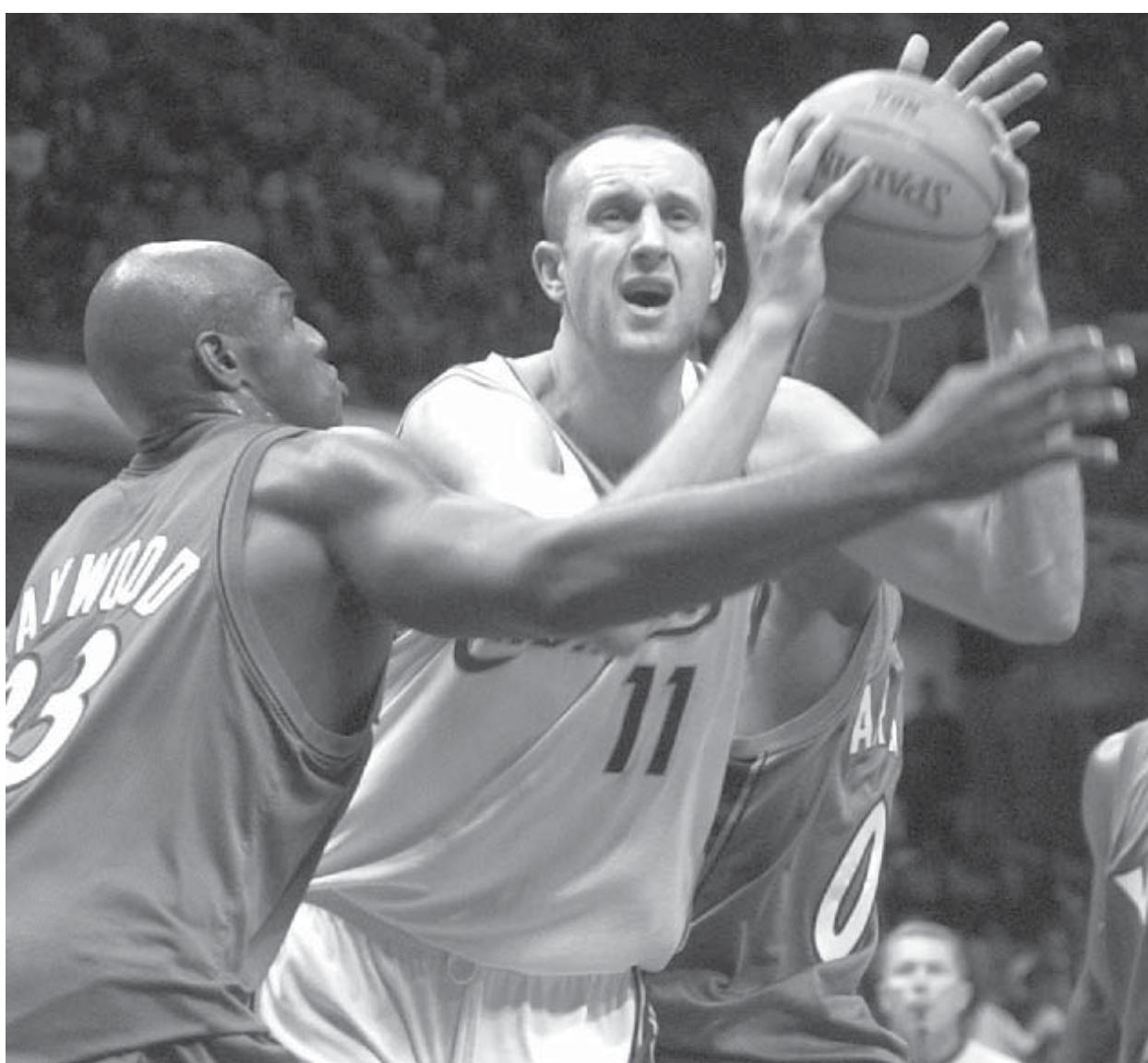
Acquired from Washington in the offseason to give Dallas a threat off the bench, Stackhouse had struggled with his shot. He came into the game shooting 36.4 percent, including a 4-of-14 effort in a loss at Orlando this week.

Warriors 103, Bobcats 87

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Jason Richardson scored 27 points and Troy Murphy added 22 to lead Golden State over expansion Charlotte.

It was the first win for coach Mike Montgomery, who opened his NBA career with six consecutive losses and put Golden State in danger of besting the franchise futility mark set at the start of the 1997-98 season by opening 0-9.

The Warriors built a 22-point, first-half lead against the undermanned Bobcats. Down to 10 players already



Cleveland Cavaliers' Zydrunas Ilgauskas, from Lithuania, (11) tries to get past Washington Wizards' Brendan Haywood (33) in the third quarter, Saturday, Nov. 13, 2004, in Cleveland.

because of injury, Emeka Okafor left with a sprained ankle.

Gerald Wallace led Charlotte with 22 points.

Spurs 103, Hawks 88

In Atlanta, Tim Duncan scored 26 points and grabbed 18 rebounds, and Bruce Bowen scored a career-high 22 points to help San Antonio defeat Atlanta.

Antoine Walker led the Hawks with 23 points, including four 3-pointers in the final quarter. Atlanta's only other scorer in double figures was Al Harrington with 10 points.

Spurs center Rasho Nesterovic had a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

The Hawks, who set a team record with only 25 second-half points Tuesday night against Cleveland, were back in a scoring rut early against the Spurs. Atlanta trailed 44-35 at halftime after shooting 28 percent in the first two quarters.

Pacers 103, Knicks 97

In Indianapolis, Jermaine O'Neal had 33 points and 12 rebounds, Ron Artest marked his 25th birthday with 22 points and Stephen Jackson added 19

as Indiana beat New York.

It was Indiana's fourth game in five nights, and because of injuries the Pacers had only 10 players available and used just eight, with all five starters logging at least 38 minutes.

Artest then iced the game with two free throws before Jerome Williams scored for New York at the buzzer.

Nazr Mohammed added a season-high 20 points for the Knicks.

Bucks 94, Hornets 91

In Milwaukee, Michael Redd scored 30 points, and Keith Van Horn and Desmond Mason added 17 each to lead Milwaukee over New Orleans.

Joe Smith added 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Bucks, who have won three straight games following a season-opening loss to Orlando. New Orleans, led by Darrell Armstrong's 21 points, fell to 0-6.

Redd had 12 points in the third quarter to help the Bucks to a 71-63 lead. He made seven straight shots, including three in the third quarter, before finally missing with 5:02 to play.

Clippers 97, Bulls 96

In Chicago, Marko Jaric scored 17 of

his 19 points in the second half as Los Angeles rallied from a 24-point deficit to beat winless Chicago.

Corey Maggette led Los Angeles with 23 points, and Chris Wilcox added 14 points, including two thunderous dunks in the final quarter when the Clippers finished off the victory.

The Bulls blew a 49-25 second-quarter lead and fell to 0-4.

Eddy Curry led the Bulls with 20, but had only six in the second half, and shot just 8-for-20. Tyson Chandler added 17 points and had 13 rebounds.

The Clippers played their third road game in four nights after arriving at 2:30 a.m. from New York, where they'd lost to the Knicks on Friday night.

Lakers 84, Rockets 79

In Houston, Lamar Odom had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Los Angeles held on to give coach Rudy Tomjanovich a victory over his former team. The Lakers blew a 22-point lead they held in the third quarter.

In an emotional pregame ceremony, Tomjanovich was honored for his 33 years of service to the Houston organization as a player, scout, assistant coach and head coach. He led the Rockets

to NBA championships in 1994 and 1995.

Tomjanovich had his new team way ahead early in the third quarter, despite a strong performance by Yao Ming who had 32 points and seven rebounds. Jim Jackson added 15 for the Rockets.

Kobe Bryant was only 2-for-7 in the first half but he scored the Lakers' first nine points of the third quarter. He finished with 19 points and 11 rebounds.

Jazz 108, Pistons 93

In Salt Lake City, Mehmet Okur scored 19 points against his former team, and Carlos Boozer had 20 points and 13 rebounds, leading Utah past Detroit.

Andrei Kirilenko scored 17 points and Gordan Giricek finished with 15 points for the Jazz, who scored more than 100 points for the fifth time in six games.

The Jazz, who won just three of their six 100-point games last season, won for the fifth time in six games.

Defending NBA champion Detroit was without Ben Wallace, who missed the game because of a death in his family, and Chauncey Billups, sidelined with a sprained ankle.

Richard Hamilton scored 19 of his 21 points in the second half for Detroit. Antonio McDyess had 18 points and 12 rebounds.

Kings 113, Suns 111

In Phoenix, Chris Webber had a season-high 28 points and 10 rebounds, helping Sacramento beat Phoenix and shake off its worst loss of the early season.

The Kings lost by 30 points at Seattle on Wednesday night, staggering to a 1-4 start.

Peja Stojakovic matched his season high with 23 points, Mike Bibby scored 20 and Brad Miller had six of his 14 points in the final quarter.

Amare Stoudemire and Steve Nash had 29 points apiece for the Suns, who dropped their second straight after a 4-0 start.

Trail Blazers 105, Raptors 102

In Portland, Oregon, Zach Randolph had 27 points and 16 rebounds, and Portland returned home after a winless road trip to beat Toronto.

Lamond Murray's 3-pointer at the final buzzer appeared to tie the game at 105, but further review by officials showed that the shot was too late.

The Raptors trailed by as many as 20 points in the second half, but Rafer Alston hit the second of consecutive 3-pointers with 2:04 left to give Toronto a brief 100-98 lead. Damon Stoudamire answered with a jumper, and the Blazers led the rest of the way.

Toronto's Vince Carter had his lowest point total of the season, with just four in 22 minutes.

No. 24 Memphis tops George Mason, 75-58



MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Sean Banks had 20 points and 11 rebounds to help No. 24 Memphis beat George Mason 75-58 on Saturday night in the second round of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

Memphis (2-0) will face St. Mary's in the national semifinals on Thursday night at Madison Square Garden

in New York. In the other semifinal, No. 6 Syracuse will play No. 12 Mississippi State.

Banks struggled from the field, hitting only five of his 20 shots, but was 10-of-12 from the free-throw line.

Rodney Carney and Darius Washington added 12 points each, and Anthony Rice finished with 11. Joey Dorsey had his second consecutive double-double

with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Jai Lewis led George Mason (1-1) with 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Lamar Butler added 13 points. The Patriots struggled from the field, shooting 28 percent, including 3-of-19 from 3-point range.

Memphis led 41-32 at the half, but George Mason stayed close despite shooting 29 percent from the field,

including 2-of-10 from 3-point range. The Patriots hit all but one of their 13 free throws in the half.

Lewis had nine points for George Mason, but was hampered with foul problems, sitting out the final 6 minutes of the half.

George Mason chipped into the lead early in the second half and eventually cut it to five at 49-44, before Memphis clicked

off seven straight points, part of a 12-1 run, to build it back to double digits.

Lewis did his best to keep George Mason in the game. Using his size underneath and spin moves on the baseline, he scored seven of George Mason's eight points in on one stretch, cutting the lead to 63-54, the only time the Patriots got the Memphis lead under double digits in the final 12 minutes.

Byrd decisions McCline to keep IBF title

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP BOXING WRITER

BOXING NEW YORK (AP) — Chris Byrd felt the power and found the canvas. Then Jameel McCline found out what made Byrd a heavyweight champion in the first place. Giving away 56 pounds and several inches, Byrd survived a second-round knockout and a bigger man's punch to retain his IBF heavyweight title Saturday night on a split decision by the narrowest of margins.

The fight was the best of two title bouts at Madison Square Garden. In the other, WBA champion John Ruiz retained his title despite being knocked



Chris Byrd punches Jameel McCline in the fourth round of the IBF Heavyweight Championship fight at New York's Madison Square Garden Saturday, Nov. 13, 2004.

down twice and penalized once in an ugly fight with Andrew Golota.

Ruiz also lost his trainer, Norman Stone, who ran across the ring after the first round and threw a punch at Golota's trainer and then was ejected in the eighth round after repeatedly arguing with referee Randy Neumann.

Ruiz, though, came on strong late in the fight to win 114-111 on two cards and 113-112 on the third. The Associated Press had Golota ahead, 113-112.

As crafty a fighter as the heavyweight division has seen in recent times, Byrd needed every bit of his skills to come on strong in the later rounds to win a split 12-round decision that was in doubt until the final judge's tally was added up.

The good friends hugged as the highly entertaining fight ended and the crowd of 12,777 stood and cheered. Byrd won by 115-112 and 114-113, while McCline was favored 114-112 on the third scorecard.

The AP card favored Byrd, 115-113.

"The way I fought back showed I am a true champion. I had to dig down. He weighed 270 pounds," Byrd said. "I definitely did enough to win the fight. I am a champion."

Byrd, who weighed 214 pounds to McCline's 270, was in trouble early, going down in the second round from a right hand and taking punishment from an aggressive McCline. He was trailing badly after five rounds, before beginning to find his mark and score with quick inside combinations.

It was the third title defense for the southpaw Byrd, and the third fight that was close until the end. In his last fight, he retained the title with a draw over Golota.

"He has fast hands and he took me out of my game plan," McCline said. "That was the difference."

In other fights:

□ Evander Holyfield was dominated once again, this time

by journeyman Larry Donald, but refused to call it a career. At the age of 42, Holyfield lost almost every round to Donald and has now won only two of his last nine fights.

□ Former heavyweight champion Hasim Rahman put himself in contention for one of the major titles by stopping an outclassed Kali Meehan after four rounds. Rahman never knocked Meehan down but was giving him such punishment at the end of the fourth round that Meehan's corner threw in the towel after the round ended.

Byrd (38-2-1) didn't have the power to knock McCline down, but stood and traded punches in the later rounds, getting the better of the bigger man in almost every exchange and giving a boxing clinic to both McCline (31-4-3) and the Garden crowd.

McCline was staggering toward the end when a flurry by Byrd seemed to hurt him with 45 seconds left in the 11th round and Byrd in command.

"It was not everything I imagined it would be because I expected to go home with the title," McCline said. "It looked like I fell apart a little toward the end and that may have cost me."

McCline appeared on his way to a quick end when he floored Byrd late in the second round. But Byrd got up, weathered the storm and began landing with quick combinations.

"I can't believe it happened," Byrd said of the knockdown. "He hit me right behind the ear. It was a perfect shot."

Like Byrd, Ruiz was in danger of losing his title early. He was dropped by a counter right late in the second round by Golota, then went down a few seconds later with a right to the top of the head.

The fight disintegrated from there into a brawling, mauling affair that pleased nobody except Ruiz, who has a history of fighting ugly and winning unpopular decisions.

No. 7 Utah pastes Wyoming, 45-28



LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — A

brownout that delayed the start for 99 minutes was the only thing that slowed down No. 7 Utah on Saturday night. After power was restored, Utah rolled to a 45-28 victory over Wyoming, clinching a second straight Mountain West title and boosting the Utes' hopes for a marquee bowl.

Utah's school-record 10-0 start combined with Wisconsin's 49-14 loss to Michigan State could move the Utes into the top six in the BCS standings and a likely berth in the Fiesta Bowl. Utah is 6-0 in conference play.

Alex Smith passed for 244 yards and three touchdowns and ran for a game-high 105 yards and another TD as Utah scored on its first five possessions. Smith, who completed 17 of 27 passes, has 27 touchdown passes

Morgan Scalley's sixth interception of the season set up a 26-yard pass from Smith to Paris Warren, putting Utah up 24-7 with 11:04 left in the first half.

Utah bolted to a 14-0 lead on Smith's 27-yard keeper and

es and only two interceptions on the season.

Steve Savoy had a 15-yard run that put Utah up 38-7 and a 10-yard TD among his six receptions as the Utes racked up 488 yards of offense.

John Madsen's 15-yard catch made it 45-14 on the final play of the third quarter.

Wyoming (6-4, 3-3) had no answer for the Utes' attack, which came close to its averages of 45.8 points and 500 yards.

Helped by Wyoming's ineptness, Utah piled up 318 yards and a 31-7 lead by halftime. The Cowboys coughed up the ball on three of their first four drives.

Morgan Scalley's sixth interception of the season set up a 26-yard pass from Smith to Paris Warren, putting Utah up 24-7 with 11:04 left in the first half.

The start was delayed 1 hour, 39 minutes because of a partial power outage, leaving fans shivering in twilight and a 15-degree wind chill until kickoff at 6:45 p.m.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	3	2	.600	—
Toronto	4	3	.571	—
Philadelphia	3	3	.500	1/2
New York	2	3	.400	1
New Jersey	2	4	.333	1 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	4	2	.667	—
Orlando	4	2	.667	—
Washington	3	3	.500	1
Charlotte	1	4	.200	2 1/2
Atlanta	1	5	.167	3

Central Division

Milwaukee	3	1	.750	1/2
Indiana	5	2	.714	—
Cleveland	3	3	.500	1
Detroit	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Chicago	0	4	.000	3 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	6	1	.857	—
San Antonio	5	1	.833	1/2
Houston	3	4	.429	3
Memphis	2	4	.333	3 1/2
New Orleans	0	6	.000	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Seattle	5	1	.833	—
Utah	5	1	.833	—
Minnesota	3	2	.600	1 1/2
Portland	3	3	.500	2
Denver	2	4	.333	3

Pacific Division

Phoenix	4	2	.667	—
L.A. Clippers	4	3	.571	1/2
L.A. Lakers	4	4	.500	1
Sacramento	2	4	.333	2
Golden State	1	6	.143	3 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 105, Washington 74

Dallas 94, New Jersey 78

San Antonio 103, Atlanta 88

Golden State 103, Charlotte 87

Indiana 103, New York 97

L.A. Lakers 84, Houston 79

L.A. Clippers 97, Chicago 96

Milwaukee 94, New Orleans 91

Utah 108, Detroit 93

Sacramento 113, Phoenix 111

Portland 105, Toronto 102?

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

EAST

Boston College 36, West Virginia 17

Bucknell 42, Colgate 7

Buffalo 36, Cent. Michigan 6

Cent. Connecticut St. 28, Albany, N.Y. 23

Cornell 32, Columbia 26

Dartmouth 20, Brown 7

Duquesne 36, Morehead St. 33, 2OT

Harvard 31, Penn 10

Lafayette 56, Holy Cross 20

Lehigh 21, Fordham 14

Maine 42, Rhode Island 28

Monmouth, N.J. 49, St. Francis, Pa. 39

New Hampshire 62, Towson 24

Northeastern 37, Hofstra 34, 2OT

Sacred Heart 24, Robert Morris 3

St. Peter's 13, Pace 6

Stony Brook 45, Iona 13

Temple 34, Syracuse 24



Triathlete Dick Pierce finishes the bicycle portion of the Enticer Triathlon and readies for the transition to the run on Saturday, Nov. 6.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Still no takers for Thursday 8-ball

Corner Pocket owner and billiards *conisseur* Ken Phillips is once again inviting pool players on island to partake of competitive 8-ball action at his sports bar.

A week after announcing that the favorite billiards venue of the island's slickest pool players is moving its regular Tuesday 8-Ball Tournament to Thursday, Phillips reported that, "nobody has been biting."

Phillips said he would try again this Nov. 18 to restart the 8-ball event, which promises a level playing field for ace cue artists and not so good ones alike.

The renamed Thursday 8-Ball Tournament is scheduled to roll off 8:30pm Thursday. Participants must fork over \$15 to enter the double-elimination competition. Progressive pot for 8-ball in a break will apply.

Ladies will also be given a handicap and players are given free practice rounds before the tournament starts provided they buy drinks from the bar.

First place is assured half of



NORTH

From Page 28

base knocks, a run batted in, and a pair of plate crossings, while teammate Martin Camacho entered the game in the fifth and added two singles, a ribby and a score to guide the Stars.

The second game ended with a swap in the standings, as the Kautz Glass Glazers (3-4) leapfrogged the defending champion Rep. Dave Atalig Hustlers (2-4) into third place with a 9-3

upset before the sunset.

The Glazers scored all of the runs that they would need in the bottom of the first inning when Tyrone Omar, Anthony Palacios, J.P. Sablan, and Ben Taisican made their way home in the four run, four hit stanza, and relied on solid pitching to carry them home.

Hurler Franco Flores pitched six and a third innings, fanning four and allowing a pair of runs off of four hits before David Camacho slammed the door shut

Triathletes invade Marpi anew

By BRAD E. RUSZALA
REPORTER



While many people across the CNMI were getting ready for their weekend barbecues at the beach, several others gathered at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi for a swim, bike ride, and a run, as the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation hosted an "Enticer Triathlon" in the wee hours of last Saturday, Nov. 6.

In an effort to attract more people to the sport of three, the NMITF put together a series of races aimed at preparing would be triathletes for the Olympic distance triathlon in Tinian in February.

NMITF volunteers and organizers were surprised at the large turnout, as 36 racers showed up to take part in the event. Add-

ing to the delight of organizers is that 31 of the participants had never competed in a triathlon of any distance.

Organizers and volunteers made a list of those needing bikes, helmets and goggles, and began to register the rookies.

Due to the larger than expected turn-out, several of the experienced triathletes opted to volunteer to help as race buddies, transition help, or as course safety officers.

NMITF president Stephan Samoyloff assembled the mass of first-timers for a pre-race briefing at the pool before Saipan swim coach Mike Stewart, blew the whistle to start the event at 8:05am.

The first-time racers used a variety of methods to negotiate the 200-meter swim, to include a few who chose to utilize fins and snorkels. Though no two

strokes were the same, the athletes were in unison in their desire to try something new.

From the pool, racers quickly made the transition to the bike portion of the course, which featured an approximately 3-kilometer ride northward from the pool to the dump, where they turned around and headed back.

After reaching the driveway to the pool, volunteers racked their bikes while racers then transitioned to the 1km run north to the FEBC road sign, before returning to the pool.

The first place finisher overall it was Saipan International School teacher Wayne Bramlett. The experienced triathlete pulled off the fastest combined time of 25:09 to finish ahead of Gary Padsing in second (25:26), and Caleb Gabbie in third (26:06).

Gabbie also finished first in

the youth category ahead of second place Brad Brostrom (29:00—ninth overall), and third place Justin Alexander (32:13—14th overall).

Betty Johnson placed first among the women with 32:03, for 13th overall, while Brenda Schultz (17th overall) was just a minute behind in second place with a 33:03, followed by third place Laura Hohman with a time of 34:00.

The sole female youth competitor was Natasha Good who finished with a time of 28:06 and in 7th place overall.

The NMITF will continue the series with a second enticer at Pau Pau Beach on Saturday, Dec. 11, when the distances are increased to a 600-meter swim, an 18-kilometer bike, and 4-kilometer run. Registration and start times have yet to be announced.

Ada, eight others elected to board



Nine volunteer district administrators were elected to three-year terms on the Little League International Board of Directors, it was announced recently by Stephen D. Keener, president and chief executive officer of Little League Baseball and Softball.

The newly-elected directors are: James Ada of Saipan, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (District 1); Frank Bergfield of Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (District 1); Danny Cavallo of Syracuse, N.Y. (District 8); Jim Chavez of Auburn, Wash. (District 10); Val Domingue, Jr. of Lafayette, La. (District 1); Bob Gibson of Dunedin, Fla. (District 12); James Joseph of Burlington, Wis. (District 1); Felix M. Rivera of Arroyo, Puerto Rico (District 13), and Marc St. Pierre of Quebec, Ontario, Canada (District 4).

The nine new members were nominated by their fellow district administrators at the Little League International Congress in Virginia Beach, Va., last April. Each of these new directors brings a wealth of experience and volunteer leadership to serve this board, said Keener.

Its that experience at all levels of the Little League program that makes them highly qualified to help govern



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

James Ada, standing right, of Saipan joins eight other newly elected Little League International Board of Directors.

the worlds largest organized youth sports program. A member of the International Board of Directors for eight years, Timothy J. Hughes from Williamsport, has served as chairman-elect since 2001, and succeeds W. Dwight Raiford of Harlem, N.Y. Raiford will remain on the board of directors. It is an honor and a privilege to be elected chairman of the Little League International Board of Directors, said

Hughes. I have been a part of the Little League program for many years, and at each level of my association I have been proud of the role Little League plays in the lives of the children

and volunteers it serves. I see my time as chairman as an opportunity to continue to educate, and help expand the program. Hughes is the first chairman of the Little League International Board of Directors to have graduated from Little League. As a boy, he played in the Little Mountaineer Little League in South Williamsport. Dennis Lewin of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., was elected chairman-elect, and will serve in that capacity until the election of nine new directors in 2007.

Little League Baseball, founded in 1939, is the world's largest organized youth sports program, with nearly 2.7 million participants and a million

volunteers in all 50 U.S. states and 66 other countries. The Little League International Board of Directors, a volunteer board, is responsible for the management of the property and affairs of Little League. At the meeting, the board heard presentations on Little League Internationals newly created league development department and electronic newsletter.

The league development department will take a more proactive approach to inquiries from potential new leagues. The Little League E-Newsletter will be sent electronically to more than 250,000 adult volunteers and players each month. (PR)

HYATT

From Page 28

two rounds to win Class-A, while Togawa's 144 smoked the field in the ladies division.

Blanco, meanwhile, finished tied with four others atop the leaderboard in Class-B but yielded the Top 2 spots because of tiebreaks.

von Siebenthal, who also played for the team, said Saipan was awarded the championship cup during a gala dinner/Halloween night held at the Hyatt Regency Manila on Oct. 30.

Sam Cheng, food and beverage director of the hotel and also

a member of the champion team, said the three-day, three-night golf package to Manila was also made possible by Continental Micronesia, which gave a special discount to the delegation.

Cheng and von Siebenthal both said that aside from the two days of wonderful golf, played at the mountain resort town south of Manila, Saipan Club at the Hyatt members also were able to shop at the Philippine capital's famously inexpensive shopping malls.

Other members of the victorious Club at the Hyatt Saipan team were Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente, Saipan Chamber of Com-

merce president Alex Sablan, Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Carlos Salas, Camacho's SPG teammate Nick Sablan, former resident Richard Heidemann (husband of former Philippine Consul General Julia Heidemann), Pacific Trading Co. general manager Charles Cepeda, Rex Palacios, Timothy Brasuell, Juan Reyes, Frank Castro, Renato Babalones, Sung Wook Lee, Manny Alvarez, Bob George John Matsumoto, John Santos, Matt Araki, Frankie Pangelinan, Daniel Harding, Mike Pai, Mark Hanson, Belle Grandinetti, Liz George, and Yoko Togawa.



Triathletes invade Marpi anew

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Saipan Tribune

Sports

28 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2004

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Chiefs complete season of perfection

By BRAD E. RUSZALA
REPORTER


The Shell Chiefs' offense was able to put a couple of drives together to pull out a 12-2 victory against the Verizon Nitro to complete their undefeated season, in the sloppiest game of the 2004 Commonwealth Football League's fourth season.

Both of the defenses dominated the CPA Airport field last Saturday, but while the Chiefs were able to keep their end zone Verizon free, the Nitro surrendered touchdowns in the first and third quarters, that proved to be the difference.

Without the services of quarterbacks Clasley Ngeskebei and Danny Puniimata, the Chiefs once again put the offense in the hands of Bryant Moors, while his statistics do not jump off the page, Moors did what he had to do to get his team the win. On a couple of occasions, Moors found himself in the grasp of multiple Nitro defenders and managed to toss the ball to awaiting receivers.

In one instance he was able to get the ball out to a well-positioned Stanley Iakopo, and the league's leading rusher was able to scamper to the outside for a 22-yard touchdown that gave them the 12-2 lead.

On the day, Moors went 3-for-13 for 58 yards through in the air, including a 19-yard strike to Luka Tapua'ialupe for



BRAD E. RUSZALA

George Lieto and the Verizon Nitro offense walks off the field after being stopped by the unyielding Shell Chiefs defense.

a touchdown. Moors also had a pair of interceptions, and while both teams had difficulty with their passing games, the Chiefs relied on their running game to put points on the board and take time off the clock.

The high-octane Chiefs run-

ning attack that had averaged just less than 110 yards per game was only able to accumulate 77 yards on the day. Iakopo once again led the Chiefs on the ground, but was held to 35 yards on 11 carries and a touchdown—well below his average. In the absence of Jeff

Boyer, running back Paul Guerrero got plenty of touches, as big No. 4 churned out 25 hard yards on 13 carries.

The Nitro also had a receiver at the helm, as George Lieto was tasked to lead his team. Unfortunately for the white and

red, Lieto didn't find much success through the air, completing 2-of-9 passes for -3 yards. Lieto made up for his lack of an air attack with a few scintillating runs. Number 88 ran seven times for 51 yards on the day, including a 41-yarder.

Hyatt GM elated on Manila trip

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER


Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Michael von Siebenthal was elated that the Garapan landmark was able to bring home the bacon, so to speak, in the 2nd Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Tournament held at the Sherwood Hills Golf Club on Oct. 29-30 in Tagaytay City, Philippines.

"We're very happy about the results. We're very happy our Club at the Hyatt members were able to win the tournament and bested their counterparts from Manila and Guam, especially Guam," he said.

Guam topped last year's inaugural tournament between the three hotels but lost steam this year finishing in third place behind Saipan and Manila. Local golfers got a boost



MARK RABAGO

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Michael von Siebenthal, right, proudly holds up the 2nd Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Tournament cup at the Garapan landmark's entrance last week. He is joined in the photo by the hotel's food and beverage director Sam Cheng.

with the participation of 2003 Suva South Pacific Games veteran Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, B flight specialist Diego Blanco, and women's ace golfer Noriiko Togawa.

Club at the Hyatt members from Saipan wound up with 1,410 in two rounds to finish ahead of Manila, which had 1,428, and Guam, which had 1,457.

Saipan led from the get-go, as its players combined for a superb 707 in the first day of competition compared to 719 for Manila and 743 for Guam. It didn't end there as Saipan made it two-for-two the next day amassing a score of 703 to once again top the three-team fight, while Manila and Guam could only muster 709 and 714, respectively.

Camacho, Blanco, and Togawa also finished with the best scores in their respective divisions. Camacho fired a 132 in

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North Stars, Kautz Glass earn weekday wins

By BRAD E. RUSZALA
REPORTER

The Heinz & David North Stars and the Kautz Glass Glaziers triumphed on Thursday to edge closer to the first place Speaker Fatial Pirates in a bonus day of baseball in the fall edition of the Saipan Major League at Francisco M. Palacios field in Oleai.

The North Stars received six strong innings from pitcher Brandon Santos, and reliever Ricky Jones picked up the win when his offense provided the necessary runs to help him finish the job to knock off the black and gold, 8-6.

With the win, the second place North Stars (4-3) moved within a half game of the Pirates (4-2), with just a couple of

games remaining in the season.

Santos allowed four runs off of five hits and fanned six through six innings, while Jones gave up a hit and a pair of runs through three innings.

The game was all tied up at four apiece after the sixth inning before the North Stars followed up a couple of Pirates miscues with three hits and a sacrifice fly to take the 8-4 lead.

The North Stars received six strong innings from pitcher Brandon Santos, and reliever Ricky Jones picked up the win when his offense provided the necessary runs to help him finish the job to knock off the black and gold, 8-6.

North Stars' slugger Ben Jones had the big stick for his team, going 2-for-5 with two

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James, Ilgauskas lead Cavaliers over Wizards

LeBron James scored 24 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 21 and the Cleveland Cavaliers won their third straight game after an 0-3 start, beating the Washington Wizards 105-74 Saturday.

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